

AUGUST 1955

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 8

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Featured in this issue . . .

**WORK STOPPAGES
IN
CONSTRUCTION**

- *Expenditures*
- *Starts*
- *Materials*
- *Awards*
- *Permits*
- *Costs*
- *Employment*



DOCUMENTS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

AUG 29 1955

Duke University Library

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sinclair Weeks, Secretary

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
James P. Mitchell, Secretary

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FIELD OFFICES

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.
321 Post Office Bldg.

ATLANTA 5, GA.
50 Seventh St. NE

BOSTON 9, MASS.
U. S. Post Office and
Courthouse Bldg.

BUFFALO 3, N. Y.
117 Ellicott St.

CHARLESTON 4, S. C.
Area 2
Sergeant Jasper Bldg.

CHEYENNE, WYO.
307 Federal Office Bldg.

CHICAGO 6, ILL.
226 W. Jackson Blvd.

CINCINNATI 2, OHIO
422 U. S. Post Office
and Courthouse

CLEVELAND 14, OHIO
1100 Chester Ave.

DALLAS 2, TEX.
1114 Commerce St.

DENVER 2, COLO.
142 New Custom House

DETROIT 26, MICH.
438 Federal Bldg.

EL PASO, TEX.
Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

HOUSTON, TEX.
430 Lamar Ave.

JACKSONVILLE 1, FLA.
425 Federal Bldg.

KANSAS CITY 6, MO.
Federal Office Bldg.

LOS ANGELES 15, CALIF.
1031 S. Broadway

MEMPHIS 3, TENN.
229 Federal Bldg.

MIAMI 32, FLA.
316 U. S. Post Office Bldg.

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.
319 Metropolitan Bldg.

NEW ORLEANS 12, LA.
333 St. Charles Ave.

NEW YORK 13, N. Y.
110 E. 45th St.

PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.
1015 Chestnut St.

PHOENIX, ARIZ.
137 N. Second Ave.

PITTSBURGH 22, PA.
107 Sixth St.

PORTLAND 4, OREG.
217 Old U. S. Courthouse

RENO, NEV.
1479 Wells Ave.

RICHMOND, VA.
900 N. Lombardy St.

ST. LOUIS 1, MO.
910 New Federal Bldg.

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH
222 S.W. Temple St.

SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIF.
555 Battery St.

SAVANNAH, GA.
235 U. S. Courthouse and
Post Office Bldg.

SEATTLE 4, WASH.
909 First Ave.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REGIONAL OFFICES

BOSTON 10, MASS.
18 Oliver St.

CHICAGO 3, ILL.
105 West Adams St.

NEW YORK 1, N. Y.
341 Ninth Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIF.
630 Sansome St.

ATLANTA 5, GA.
50 Seventh St. NE

NOTE: Contents of this publication emanating from governmental sources are not copyrighted and may be reprinted freely. Mention of source will be appreciated. Data credited to private sources appear here through special arrangements and are still subject to the copyrights of the compilers.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Subscription price per year--\$3 domestic; \$4 foreign. Price 30 cents a copy.

The printing of this publication has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (December 16, 1954)

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

CONTENTS FOR AUGUST 1955

	PAGE
AT A GLANCE	2
FEATURE: Work Stoppages in Construction, 1946-54	4
*STATISTICAL SERIES:	
Part I --Construction Put in Place	9
Part II --New Housing	14
Part III --Building Permits	18
Part IV --Contract Awards	26
Part V --Costs (Indexes, Materials Prices, and Wage Rates)	28
Part VI --Materials	33
Part VII--Employment	42
Explanatory Notes (Omitted from this issue)	
Index to Tables (See inside back cover)	
CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION	49
CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS	53

*This issue contains seasonal indexes of construction activity, including recent revisions (Part I), and revised indexes of the production of millwork products, January 1947-May 1955 (Part VI).

Inquiries on the content of Construction Review may be addressed to the publication in care of either agency.

This publication prepared under the direction of

Walter W. Schneider, Chief
Construction Statistics and Economics Branch
BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
BUSINESS AND DEFENSE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Arnold E. Chase, Chief
Division of Construction Statistics
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

At a Glance

NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN JULY--The value of new construction put in place rose seasonally in July to a new monthly peak of nearly \$4.0 billion, and reached a record total of \$23.1 billion for the first 7 months of the year. July activity was at an annual rate (seasonally adjusted) of \$42.0 billion. The 4-percent increase from June came chiefly from expansion in private residential and commercial building and in highway work. Almost all other types of construction remained at about their high June levels or rose slightly. Comparing activity for the first 7 months of 1954-55, private expenditures of \$16.5 billion were a fifth higher this year (the only declines being in private school, farm, and railroad construction), while public outlays of \$6.5 billion were virtually the same, as decreases in Federal construction about equaled increases in State and local work.

HOUSING STARTS IN JUNE--Nonfarm housing starts declined seasonally in June to 129,000. This was the highest volume for any June except in 1950 and 1951, and exceeded the June 1954 figure by 11 percent. Private housing starts this June (126,500) were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,320,000, an edge over the April-May rates but well below the average for the recent fall and winter months and the alltime high rate in June 1950. However, for the first half of 1955, the 679,300-unit total (private and public) was 19 percent above the 1954 figure for the same period and only 4 percent below January-June volume in recordbreaking 1950.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN JUNE--Nonfarm housing begun under FHA and VA programs expanded again in June and accounted for 56 percent of total private housing starts for the month--the largest proportion since the 60-percent ratio in November 1954. For the first half year, the ratio of FHA-VA starts to total private starts rose from 43 percent in 1954 to a little over 51 percent this year. VA activity was chiefly responsible for the higher ratio. Housing begun under the FHA and VA programs accounted for most of the 1954-55 gain, thus far, in total private starts. Applications for FHA mortgage insurance in new homes rose slightly in June, whereas VA appraisal requests declined by a fourth--to the lowest level since January.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN MAY--After a small decline in April, the volume of nonfarm mortgage recordings moved up in May to a record monthly total of nearly \$2.5 billion, with all types of lenders except insurance companies sharing in the rise. This brought total volume for the first 5 months of 1955 to \$11.3 billion, or 38 percent above the 1954 figure for the same period. Over-the-year increases for these months ranged from 18 percent for the individual lenders to 51 percent for the miscellaneous group (chiefly real estate and mortgage companies), while volume was 39 percent higher for savings and loan associations, insurance companies, and commercial banks. Although the average loan amount for the first 5 months of this year was 13 percent higher than in the corresponding 1954 period, the rate of increase on the average loan has slowed considerably during 1955.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN JUNE--Building-permit valuations rose slightly in June to more than \$1.9 billion, 17 percent above the June 1954 figure. The May-June rise reflected important gains in industrial and community building (schools, hospitals, churches, and the like), plus smaller advances for commercial building and alteration and repair work. However, permits for new housing declined slightly over the month, initiating the seasonal downturn in new residential building, which usually begins in the summer. The \$7.9-billion total for the first half of 1955 was 5 percent above the figure for the same 1954 period, with housing and commercial building accounting for the gain.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS AWARDED IN MAY--The value of contracts awarded for public construction rose by 5 percent in May to \$809.4 million, or about 15 percent above the May 1954 figure. The April-May rise this year resulted almost entirely from increases in State and local construction, where award values were up substantially for utilities, and moderately for public buildings, excepting schools. Comparing the first 5 months of 1954-55, total public award values were 8 percent higher this year at \$3.4 billion, as a 16-percent decline in Federal awards (to \$524.4 million) was offset by a 13-percent increase in State and local awards (to \$2,858.8 million). Increases over the year were chiefly for State and locally owned highways, schools, and utilities.

At a Glance

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE 37 EASTERN STATES IN JUNE--The value of construction contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains rose slightly in June to about \$2.3 billion, or 30 percent above the June 1954 figure. Volume for the first 6 months of 1955 totaled \$12.0 billion--30 percent above the year-ago total and the highest first half year volume on record. The largest advances over the year were in residential building and utility construction, despite declines in these types of work from May to June.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN JUNE--Construction cost indexes continued in June the fractional advances that began early this year. The Department of Commerce composite index for June, at 125.3 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 3 percent above the June 1954 index.

BUILDING MATERIALS PRICES IN JUNE--The June wholesale price index for building materials remained unchanged from the alltime high of 124.1 in May, marking the first time in almost a year that this index failed to rise. However, the June 1955 index was almost 5 percent above the 1954 low in June, and does not yet reflect recently announced price advances for steel. The lack of change from May to June reflected stability for many items. In addition, a 16-percent drop in prices of nonmetallic sheathed cable, plus fractional declines in southern pine and millwork, were offset by small price increases for building wire, wood screws, wall tile, asphalt roofing, asbestos cement shingles, and Douglas fir lumber.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN MAY--Indexes of construction materials output advanced in May for a majority of the main commodity groups. Production of portland cement was at a postwar peak, and most of the remaining items were at a peak for the month of May. Millwork and asphalt products were the only materials showing a decline from April to May, while heating and plumbing equipment remained about the same. Output this May was well above the year-ago level for all items, with increases ranging from 8 percent for asphalt products to 19 percent for both clay construction products and heating and plumbing equipment.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, FIRST QUARTER 1955--Exports continued to exceed imports of most construction materials items, on the basis of a first-quarter 1954-55 comparison. Contrary to the prevailing pattern, portland cement was imported in somewhat greater quantity than exported this year, reflecting the developing domestic shortage in this item. Likewise, imports of clay tile were well above exports, whereas last year the reverse was true. Among the iron and steel products, exports generally continued greater but at a reduced volume; imports of concrete reinforcing bars, however, were significantly greater than exports despite the fact that exports had more than doubled over the year.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE--After sharp gains in April and May, the rise in contract construction employment slowed somewhat in June when an addition of 81,000 workers brought employment in the industry to 2.6 million. This was about equal to the year-ago figure but 140,000 below the June peak in 1952.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MAY--Weekly pay on contract construction rose by \$3.22 from April to a May peak of \$95.74 because of a 1.4-hour increase in the workweek. The gain was shared by workers on all types of contract construction. The largest May increase was on highway work, where weekly earnings averaged \$8.11 more and the workweek was 3 hours longer than in April. Comparing May 1954-55, average weekly earnings on all contract construction rose by \$1.24 over the year, but increases ranged from less than \$1 for employees on heavy construction (except highways), and for employees of electrical and general contractors, to over \$5 for workers on painting and decorating.

UNION WAGE SCALES IN THE BUILDING TRADES, SECOND QUARTER 1955--Union hourly wage scales in the building trades advanced 2.1 percent, during the second quarter of 1955, compared with a rise in the same 1954 period of 1.6 percent. Negotiating activity during the past quarter resulted in widespread increases, over half of which amounted to 10 cents an hour or more. As of July 1, the average hourly rate of all organized building trades workers was \$2.89, an increase of 3.3 percent, or about 9 cents, over the July 1, 1954 average.

Work Stoppages in Construction, 1946-54

DANIEL P. WILLIS, JR.*

Peak levels of construction activity in recent years have been accompanied by a rise in the number of work stoppages and in resulting idleness in the industry. Construction volume has increased in each year since 1946 regardless of developments elsewhere in the economy; expenditures for total new construction have increased from \$12 billion in that year to an alltime high of over \$37 billion in 1954.¹ Largely as a consequence of this growth in the industry, strike activity has also tended to increase during the post-World War II period, although the upward trend has been interrupted in several years. Thus, in 1948 and 1954, construction strike activity receded in the face of general business uncertainty. Idleness resulting from strikes was at the lowest point in the postwar period in 1951, the first full year of the Korean emergency and of post-World War II wage stabilization controls.

Widespread employment opportunities generated by this period of sustained expansion in the construction industry have strengthened the bargaining position of building-trades unions. Contractors have been anxious to fulfill their commitments with a minimum of interruptions. Nevertheless, disagreements over new contract terms have occurred from time to time. Some of these controversies were not resolved until after the occurrence of a strike. However, most labor-management disputes in construction, as in industry generally, were settled without recourse to work stoppages.

TABLE 1.—WORK STOPPAGES AND MAN-DAYS IDLE IN CONSTRUCTION, 1946-54¹

Year	Work stoppages beginning in year		Man-days idle		
	Number	Workers involved (thousands)	Number (thousands)	As percent of total estimated working time	Per worker involved
1946.....	351	146	1,450	0.40	9.9
1947.....	382	175	2,770	.66	15.8
1948.....	380	108	1,430	.29	13.2
1949.....	615	197	2,760	.53	14.0
1950.....	611	237	2,460	.44	10.4
1951.....	651	232	1,190	.18	5.1
1952.....	794	634	6,700	1.03	10.6
1953.....	1,039	574	8,000	1.22	13.9
1954.....	804	437	4,800	.71	11.0

¹ Data in tables 1 and 2 are based on all construction work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer. Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as a full shift or day in work places directly involved in a stoppage, and "man-days idle" cover all work stoppages under way during the year.

Trend in Construction Strike Activity, 1946-54²

The lowest number of construction strikes recorded during the 9 postwar years 1946-54 was in 1946, when a total of 351 was reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. No significant increase occurred in the next 2 years, but beginning with 1949 the number of work stoppages rose to a higher plateau, with somewhat more than 600 strikes occurring in each year from 1949 to 1951. A further increase, to almost 800 new stoppages, occurred in 1952 and this was followed by an alltime peak of 1,039 recorded in 1953. In 1954, however, stoppages declined sharply, to a total of 804.

* Of the Division of Wages and Industrial Relations, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.
¹ In 1947-49 prices, the increase was from \$15 billion to \$31 billion over the same period.

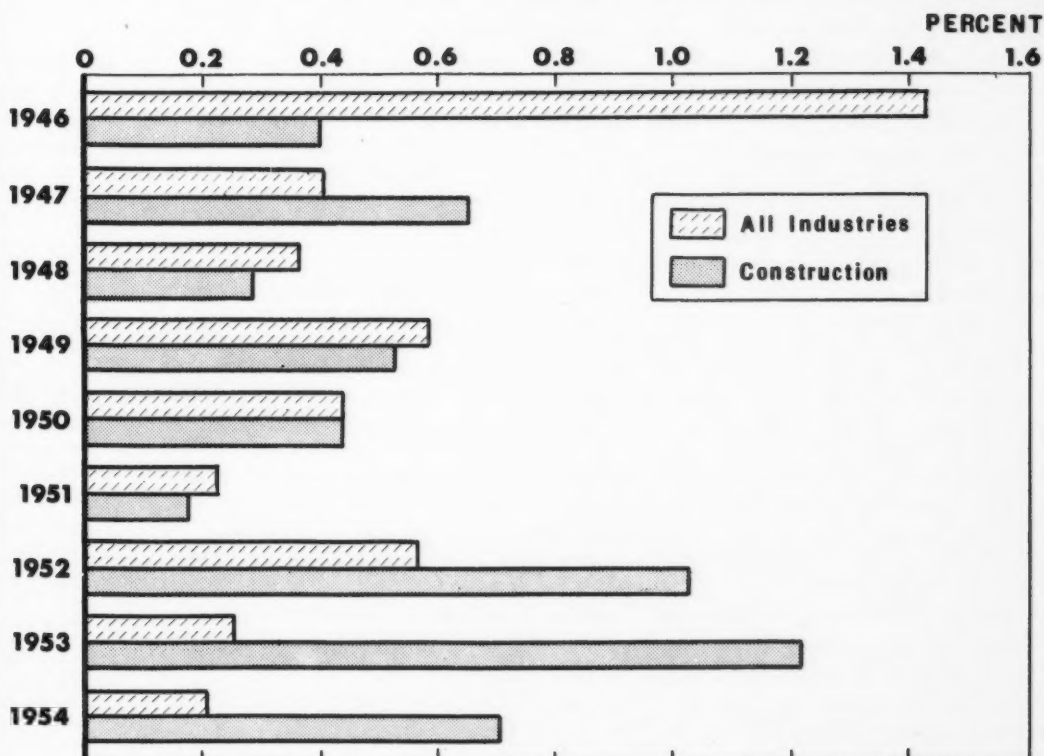
² All construction work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this study. Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as a full shift or day in workplaces directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages. "Man-days idle" cover all stoppages under way during the year.

The definition of the construction industries used here conforms to industry groups 15, 16, and 17, Contract Construction, of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, May 1949, published by the United States Bureau of the Budget. Thus, force-account construction work, performed by an establishment primarily engaged in a business other than construction, is excluded.

The number of workers involved in construction stoppages has ranged from a low of 108,000 in 1948 to a peak of 634,000 in 1952. Idleness at the site of construction arising out of labor-management disputes has likewise shown marked postwar variations. Although strike idleness remained below 3,000,000 man-days in each of the years 1946-51, it increased markedly thereafter. For the most part, this was due to an increase in the number of relatively large, and sometimes prolonged, work stoppages. Thus, approximately 6,700,000 man-days of idleness were recorded in 1952 and 8,000,000 man-days in 1953. The total for 1954 was 4,800,000 man-days of idleness, a drop of 40 percent.

Another measure of the relative impact of work stoppages in the construction industry is obtained by computing man-days of idleness in strikes as a percentage of the estimated total available working time for all construction workers during a year.³ Estimates prepared on this basis indicate that until 1952 the ratio of strike idleness to estimated working time in the construction industry was less than for all industries combined in the United States. By contrast, in the past 3 years (1952-54), this ratio in the construction industry has substantially exceeded that for industry generally. In 2 of these years--

**Man-Days Idle in Work Stoppages
as Percent of Estimated Total Working Time, 1946-1954**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

³ Estimated working time was computed by multiplying the average number of workers employed in contract construction in a given year by the number of days worked by most contract construction employees in that year.

1952 and 1953--idleness resulting from labor-management disputes amounted to slightly more than 1 percent of total working time in the construction industry; for all industries combined the ratio was 0.6 percent in 1952 and 0.3 percent in 1953. In 1954, however, the proportion declined to 0.7 percent for construction and to 0.2 percent for industry generally.

Structure of Collective Bargaining and Size of Work Stoppages

Collective bargaining and union organization are long-established institutions⁴ in the construction trades; they are widely accepted, particularly in large communities and on commercial and industrial construction. It has been estimated that roughly three-fourths of all construction workers are members of labor unions, mainly affiliates of the American Federation of Labor. The Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL, organized in 1908, is composed of 19 national and international unions organized largely on a craft basis. The United Construction Workers, an affiliate of District 50, United Mine Workers of America (Independent), represents scattered groups of construction workers; it has been active particularly in heavy construction and highway work.

Numerous employer groups bargain with locals of the AFL building trades unions, including local chapters of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., and many more specialized contractor groups. Bargaining is generally conducted at the local level between locals of individual international unions or local building trades councils, and employer associations. However, some of the AFL unions negotiate so-called "master agreements" with employer associations covering more than one State and many localities.

Since much of the bargaining is highly localized, most work stoppages in the industry likewise relate to a city or a relatively small area. A majority of these disputes affect small numbers of workers. The average number involved per strike in construction in the postwar years was 487, compared with 612 workers per strike in industry as a whole. Also, the duration of strikes is somewhat shorter on the average in construction than in industry generally. In recent years strike idleness has averaged from about 5 to 16 days (per worker involved) in construction compared with 10 to 25 days in industry generally.

A substantial proportion of the postwar idleness in the industry, however, has resulted from area-wide stoppages involving large groups of workers. Strikes of workers employed by contractors building atomic energy installations (generally the largest construction projects in the postwar period) have likewise affected relatively large groups of workers. These large strikes were particularly important in 1952, 1953, and 1954 and accounted for a substantial part of the increase in construction idleness during these years. Thus, out of the 40 stoppages, each idling 10,000 or more workers, that occurred in the industry between 1946 and 1954, 28 took place during the 3 years 1952-54. Such stoppages accounted for two-fifths of the workers and almost one-half of the man-days idle in all construction strikes in this 3-year period. In 1952, 11 large stoppages accounted for 45 percent of the workers involved and 58 percent of the man-days of idleness in all construction strikes. Ten large stoppages in 1953 involved 37 percent of the workers and one-half of the man-days idle. The number of large stoppages declined to 7 in 1954, accounting for 32 percent of the workers and 28 percent of total idleness. Hence the decline in total construction idleness in 1954 from 1952 and 1953 levels was caused primarily by the decrease in idleness growing out of stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers.

Construction strike activity is normally concentrated in the spring and summer months; thus, in 1954, 6 of the 7 largest strikes began in these months. Only 1 of these--a 91-day stoppage in the Kansas City area--continued into the fourth quarter of the year. This pattern results from the seasonal nature of construction and the concentration of most contract expiration dates in the spring.

Major Issues

Wages and supplementary benefits have been the primary issues in most strikes in construction as in industry generally. However, intraunion or interunion disputes, relatively minor causes of work stoppages in most industries, ranked second in importance as issues in strikes in the construction industry.

⁴ Some of the building trades, such as carpentry and bricklaying, were organized in the last quarter of the 19th century.

During the postwar years over one-half of all stoppages and 85 percent of total man-days idle in construction resulted from disputes over wages and supplementary benefits. In 1953, the peak year in terms of both number of stoppages and man-days idle, about 92 percent of total idleness recorded was attributed to wage disputes and in every year but two this proportion exceeded 80 percent. In 1951, however, the year of least postwar construction idleness, about two-fifths of the strikes and slightly less than one-half of the idleness resulted from disagreement over wages. This was the first full year of the Korean conflict and strike activity reflected the effect of existing wage stabilization controls.

Wage issues accounted for a higher proportion of the man-days of idleness than of the number of strikes or workers involved, since strikes over these issues generally lasted longer than those over other causes. Thus, workers involved in work stoppages stemming from disputes over economic issues, i.e. wages, hours, and/or supplementary benefits, were idle an average of 14.3 working days compared with 5.5 working days in strikes over all other issues.

Thirty-two of the 40 largest construction stoppages (involving 10,000 or more workers) in the postwar period were caused by disputes over economic issues. These large stoppages over wages and related issues involved 38 percent of the workers and accounted for 43 percent of the man-days of idleness recorded in all construction strikes caused by disputes over these issues in the postwar period. They were widely distributed geographically, but several States were affected more frequently than others. California experienced 5 major stoppages over economic issues; Michigan, 4; and Pennsylvania and Kentucky, 3 each. In Kentucky, all 3 strikes were at the Paducah construction project of the Atomic Energy Commission.

About 20 percent of the stoppages and 8 percent of the man-days idle in the construction industry in the postwar period were caused by disputes over intraunion or interunion matters, mostly jurisdictional disputes. In an effort to cope with this problem the National Joint Board for the Settlement of Juris-

TABLE 2.—MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK STOPPAGES, 1946-54¹

Issue	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
<i>Percent of stoppages</i>									
Total, all issues.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits	67.2	63.4	75.5	60.0	54.8	42.1	46.0	60.6	51.2
Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits.....	5.1	6.8	5.3	4.1	4.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	3.1
Union organization	9.7	7.9	7.4	13.3	13.1	9.8	11.1	10.8	11.8
Other working conditions.....	6.3	4.2	2.9	6.3	7.4	15.2	15.2	9.9	12.8
Interunion or intraunion matters	11.4	17.8	8.2	16.1	20.3	30.4	25.2	16.9	20.4
Not reported.....	.3	--	.8	.2	.3	1.4	1.4	.8	.6
<i>Percent of workers involved</i>									
Total, all issues.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits	62.0	86.4	86.2	80.8	80.3	45.3	53.5	78.3	65.5
Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits.....	2.8	3.4	7.2	1.1	.6	.3	.2	.1	.4
Union organization	7.3	1.3	1.7	5.0	3.7	4.0	4.9	3.2	3.3
Other working conditions.....	1.0	2.5	1.0	2.1	4.5	22.5	12.5	7.0	10.4
Interunion or intraunion matters	26.7	6.4	3.8	11.0	10.7	27.4	28.9	11.3	20.4
Not reported.....	.1	--	.1	(2)	.2	.6	.1	.1	(2)
<i>Percent of man-days idle</i>									
Total, all issues.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits	59.3	86.4	91.4	89.9	83.9	49.9	82.0	91.7	86.9
Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits.....	4.7	3.2	4.9	2.7	.5	.3	.1	.1	.1
Union organization	22.4	1.2	1.0	1.8	4.7	5.2	1.6	1.4	1.4
Other working conditions.....	.6	.8	.3	.6	4.1	17.2	4.2	2.0	4.2
Interunion or intraunion matters	12.9	8.4	2.3	5.0	6.7	26.7	11.9	4.9	7.4
Not reported.....	(2)	--	(2)	(2)	.2	.7	.1	(2)	(2)

¹ See table 1, footnote 1.² Less than 0.05 percent.

dictional Disputes was established in 1948.⁵ Generally, postwar strikes over work jurisdiction and other interunion or intraunion matters have been relatively short--5.2 days per worker involved.

The third most common issue in work stoppages in construction involved questions of union organization, including recognition, maintenance of membership, checkoff and the union shop, either alone or combined with wage matters. These were the major issues in 14 percent of the work stoppages but they caused only 4 percent of total idleness. Stoppages arising out of questions of union status lasted about 9.3 days per worker involved but the stoppages were relatively small on the average.

Other working conditions, including job security, shop conditions or policies, workloads, and protests against actions or lack of action by Government agencies, were the major issues in 10 percent of the postwar construction strikes but caused only 3 percent of total idleness. These proportions were substantially lower than those in most other industries; in recent years these issues have been the second most important cause of strikes in industry generally. The difference is due, perhaps, to existence of widespread formalized work rules in the construction industry. Most disputes over day-to-day grievances in construction are settled through established procedures without resort to strike action. The 3 largest postwar construction strikes (in terms of workers involved) caused by these issues occurred at projects of the Atomic Energy Commission--2 at Paducah, Ky., and the other at its Pike County, Ohio, project--and the longest of these lasted 8 calendar days. Postwar strikes over these issues in construction caused about 4.2 days of idleness per worker involved.

⁵ The Board was established on May 1, 1948. It is composed of representatives of organized general and specialty contractors and AFL building trades unions, with an impartial chairman selected by the industry and labor members of the Board of Trustees.

UNION WAGES AND HOURS: BUILDING TRADES, JULY 1, 1954

This bulletin presents the findings of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest annual survey of union scales of wages and hours in the building trades. The July 1, 1954 data presented in the report cover approximately 690,000 journeymen and 170,000 helpers and laborers in 52 cities with populations of 100,000 or more. The 1954 survey included (for the first time in this series of annual studies) information on the prevalence of negotiated health, insurance, and pension plans in the building construction industry. In addition, it provides detailed statistical tabulations and a brief analysis of findings concerning the historical trend in union scales of wages and hours by skill classification and for 30 separate building trades, 1907-54; hourly wage scales in effect on July 1, 1954; the amount of increase in wage scales since July 1, 1953 (in cents-per-hour and percentagewise); and the proportion of workers affected by no wage change or by varying amounts of increase; city and regional variations in average hourly wage rates by skill level and by trade; and variations in the scheduled workweek. The bulletin also provides a tabulation of union scales of wages and hours in effect during 1953-54 in each of 52 cities, for a detailed list of trades.

This annual report, *Union Wages and Hours: Building Trades, July 1, 1954* (BLS Bulletin 1175), is for sale at 30 cents a copy. Orders may be sent, accompanied by check or money order, to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., or to any of the following Bureau of Labor Statistics regional offices: New York, Chicago, or San Francisco (see inside front cover of *Construction Review* for complete addresses).

Part I--Construction Put in Place

9

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)					Percent change		
	1955		1954	First 7 months		July 1955 from--		First 7 months, 1954-55
	July	June	July	1955	1954	June 1955	July 1954	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,967	3,810	3,556	23,079	20,286	+ 4	+12	+14
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,774	2,669	2,387	16,538	13,810	+ 4	+16	+20
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,533	1,480	1,267	9,032	6,984	+ 4	+21	+29
New dwelling units.....	1,365	1,315	1,125	8,140	6,180	+ 4	+21	+32
Additions and alterations	135	134	113	715	629	+ 1	+19	+14
Nonhousekeeping	33	31	29	177	175	+ 6	+14	+ 1
Nonresidential building	667	634	551	4,103	3,466	+ 5	+21	+18
Industrial	197	189	158	1,312	1,177	+ 4	+25	+11
Commercial	276	259	206	1,577	1,195	+ 7	+34	+32
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	94	90	81	605	516	+ 4	+16	+17
Stores, restaurants, and garages	182	169	125	972	679	+ 8	+46	+43
Other nonresidential building	194	186	187	1,214	1,094	+ 4	+ 4	+11
Religious	66	62	52	401	304	+ 6	+27	+32
Educational	41	39	48	279	287	+ 5	-15	- 3
Hospital and institutional	31	30	29	203	191	+ 3	+ 7	+ 6
Social and recreational	25	24	21	137	122	+ 4	+19	+12
Miscellaneous	31	31	37	194	190	0	-16	+ 2
Farm construction	148	141	164	824	915	+ 5	-10	-10
Public utility	410	398	393	2,476	2,384	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4
Railroad	29	30	30	180	205	- 3	- 3	-12
Telephone and telegraph	65	60	58	395	378	+ 8	+12	+ 4
Other public utility	316	308	305	1,901	1,801	+ 3	+ 4	+ 6
All other private	16	16	12	103	61	0	+33	+69
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,193	1,141	1,169	6,541	6,476	+ 5	+ 2	+ 1
Residential building	21	23	24	154	220	- 9	-13	-30
Nonresidential building.....	392	394	420	2,543	2,687	- 1	- 7	- 5
Industrial.....	62	69	130	516	959	-10	-52	-46
Educational.....	225	221	189	1,409	1,183	+ 2	+19	+19
Hospital and institutional.....	32	33	34	204	211	- 3	- 6	- 3
Other nonresidential building.....	73	71	67	414	334	+ 3	+ 9	+24
Military facilities.....	115	113	90	680	551	+ 2	+28	+23
Highway.....	460	410	440	1,970	1,856	+12	+ 5	+ 6
Sewer and water	99	99	89	614	549	0	+11	+12
Public service enterprises	29	26	25	129	120	+12	+16	+ 8
Conservation and development.....	60	59	67	355	406	+ 2	-10	-13
All other public	17	17	14	96	87	0	+21	+10

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

NOTE: For all the statistical series shown in Construction Review, data for the latest months or quarter, and the most recent year, are subject to revision.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1954						1955						
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION..	3,556	3,693	3,674	3,503	3,329	3,092	2,819	2,697	2,974	3,257	3,555	3,810	3,967
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,387	2,457	2,460	2,420	2,358	2,263	2,072	2,003	2,179	2,345	2,496	2,669	2,774
Residential building													
(nonfarm).....	1,267	1,313	1,327	1,321	1,293	1,258	1,122	1,049	1,170	1,298	1,380	1,480	1,533
New dwelling units	1,125	1,175	1,195	1,195	1,175	1,150	1,030	960	1,070	1,170	1,230	1,315	1,365
Additions and alterations.....	113	110	107	102	96	86	71	68	79	105	123	134	135
Nonhousekeeping.....	29	28	25	24	22	22	21	21	21	23	27	31	33
Nonresidential building	551	556	558	554	564	552	542	549	559	562	590	634	667
Industrial	158	159	162	170	178	184	186	187	186	184	183	189	197
Commercial.....	206	210	210	202	203	192	188	199	208	213	234	259	276
Warehouses, office and													
loft buildings	81	88	88	89	90	87	84	83	82	84	88	90	94
Stores, restaurants,													
and garages	125	122	122	113	113	105	104	116	126	129	146	169	182
Other nonresidential bldg.	187	187	186	182	183	176	168	163	165	165	173	186	194
Religious	52	56	58	59	59	57	55	53	53	54	58	62	66
Educational	48	50	50	49	48	45	42	39	41	40	37	39	41
Hospital & institutional	29	29	30	29	29	29	28	28	28	28	30	30	31
Social and recreational.....	21	22	22	22	21	19	18	17	16	17	20	24	25
Miscellaneous	37	30	26	23	26	26	25	26	27	26	28	31	31
Farm construction	164	167	153	126	106	93	92	95	103	114	131	141	148
Public utility	393	409	410	407	383	348	302	297	333	357	379	398	410
Railroad	30	26	28	38	28	28	20	19	25	28	29	30	29
Telephone and telegraph	58	58	57	56	55	51	50	50	55	55	60	60	65
Other public utility	305	325	325	313	300	269	232	228	253	274	290	308	316
All other private	12	12	12	12	12	12	14	13	14	14	16	16	16
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION.....	1,169	1,236	1,214	1,083	971	829	747	694	795	912	1,059	1,141	1,193
Residential building	24	25	24	23	22	22	22	21	23	22	22	23	21
Nonresidential building	420	437	410	390	366	351	342	316	354	366	379	394	392
Industrial	130	130	106	105	104	102	90	70	81	72	72	69	62
Educational	189	195	197	193	185	181	182	178	190	202	211	221	225
Hospital and institutional	34	37	33	31	28	25	25	23	28	31	32	33	32
Other nonresidential bldg.	67	75	74	61	49	43	45	45	55	61	64	71	73
Military facilities	90	97	98	101	95	88	82	78	83	99	110	113	115
Highway	440	479	492	389	320	214	155	150	180	255	360	410	460
Sewer and water	89	94	91	88	83	77	77	70	83	89	97	99	99
Public service enterprises.....	25	25	23	19	16	15	13	11	14	16	20	26	29
Conservation and													
development	67	64	63	61	58	52	45	38	45	51	57	59	60
All other public	14	15	13	12	11	10	11	10	13	14	14	17	17

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST

1. New England
 - Connecticut
 - Maine
 - Massachusetts
 - New Hampshire
 - Rhode Island
 - Vermont
2. Middle Atlantic
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania

NORTH CENTRAL

3. E. N. Central
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Michigan
 - Ohio
 - Wisconsin
4. W. N. Central
 - Iowa
 - Kansas
 - Minnesota
 - Missouri
 - Nebraska
 - North Dakota
 - South Dakota

SOUTH

5. S. Atlantic
 - Delaware
 - Dist. of Col.
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Maryland
 - N. Carolina
 - S. Carolina
 - Virginia
 - W. Virginia
6. E. S. Central
 - Alabama
 - Kentucky
 - Mississippi
 - Tennessee
7. W. S. Central
 - Arkansas
 - Louisiana
 - Oklahoma
 - Texas

WEST

8. Mountain
 - Arizona
 - Colorado
 - Idaho
 - Montana
 - Nevada
 - New Mexico
 - Utah
 - Wyoming
9. Pacific
 - California
 - Oregon
 - Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent.

NORTH CENTRAL—29.0 percent.

SOUTH—27.7 percent.

WEST—13.8 percent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

11

Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate							Annual total	
	1954	1955						1953	1954
	July	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July		
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	37,596	41,412	41,304	41,916	42,372	42,012	42,012	35,271	37,577
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	26,160	29,220	29,352	29,976	30,024	29,832	30,300	23,877	25,768
Residential building (nonfarm)	13,800	16,140	15,960	16,392	16,392	16,296	16,572	11,930	13,496
Nonresidential building	6,360	6,984	7,248	7,464	7,512	7,464	7,668	5,680	6,250
Industrial	1,956	2,196	2,256	2,256	2,292	2,364	2,436	2,229	2,030
Commercial	2,268	2,664	2,820	2,952	2,964	2,928	3,012	1,791	2,192
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	984	1,003	1,056	1,104	1,152	1,152	1,140	739	958
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,284	1,656	1,764	1,848	1,812	1,776	1,872	1,052	1,254
Other nonresidential building	2,136	2,124	2,172	2,256	2,256	2,172	2,220	1,660	2,008
Farm construction	1,548	1,464	1,452	1,440	1,428	1,404	1,392	1,731	1,560
Public utility	4,332	4,452	4,500	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,416	4,341
All other private	120	180	192	168	180	156	156	120	121
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	11,436	12,192	11,952	11,940	12,348	12,180	11,712	11,394	11,809
Residential building	276	288	288	276	264	264	240	556	336
Nonresidential building	4,488	4,512	4,524	4,392	4,416	4,500	4,200	4,346	4,641
Military facilities	984	1,236	1,128	1,260	1,380	1,320	1,272	1,307	1,030
Highway	3,708	4,092	3,852	3,828	4,080	3,900	3,912	3,160	3,750
Sewer and water	888	1,092	1,140	1,116	1,128	1,092	996	883	982
Public service enterprises	228	204	204	216	216	252	264	200	218
Conservation and development	720	612	648	684	708	672	648	830	704
All other public	144	156	168	168	156	180	180	112	148

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Table 3-A.--Seasonal Indexes for Selected Types of New Construction Activity

(Average for year = 100)

Type of construction and base period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
PRIVATE:												
Residential building (1939-50)	86	75	79	89	102	111	114	116	115	111	106	96
Residential building (1951 to date) ¹	84	78	88	95	101	109	111	111	110	110	106	97
Industrial building (1939-46)	105	100	95	92	94	96	96	97	102	107	108	108
Industrial building (1947 to date) ¹	103	102	95	98	96	96	97	99	102	103	103	102
Warehouses, office & loft bldgs. (1939-46)	94	88	93	94	95	101	109	109	109	106	106	99
Warehouses, office & loft bldgs. (1947 to date) ¹	105	99	93	91	92	94	99	103	103	104	108	109
Stores, restaurants & garages (1939-46)	82	81	86	89	100	117	122	112	108	104	102	97
Stores, restaurants & garages (1947 to date) ¹	88	84	86	84	97	114	117	107	106	106	110	101
Other nonresidential building (1939 to date)	97	92	91	88	92	103	105	109	110	109	103	101
Farm construction (1939 to date)	75	78	85	95	110	120	127	130	120	100	85	75
Public utility (1939 to date)	82	80	89	95	101	106	109	113	113	112	105	95
All other private (1939-46)	78	86	91	100	100	117	122	114	109	100	96	87
All other private (1947 to date) ¹	84	86	87	97	109	124	125	114	99	95	94	86
PUBLIC:												
Residential building (1939 to date)	90	89	94	96	102	104	104	111	110	105	99	96
Nonresidential building (1939 to date)	88	84	94	100	103	105	112	113	110	107	95	89
Military facilities (1947 to date) ¹	84	76	88	94	96	103	109	118	120	116	105	91
Highway (1939-46)	51	48	59	81	103	122	136	142	141	134	107	76
Highway (1947-51)	50	37	52	76	126	132	142	150	147	141	106	61
Highway (1952 to date) ¹	45	44	56	80	106	126	141	149	155	145	99	54
Sewer and water (1939 to date)	84	77	87	96	103	109	120	118	112	109	96	89
Public service enterprises (1939 to date)	75	65	83	90	109	125	132	132	119	108	87	75
Conservation and development (1939 to date)	82	75	83	89	96	106	112	116	119	118	110	94
All other public (1939-46)	81	67	93	98	106	112	118	120	118	109	97	81
All other public (1947 to date) ¹	86	77	96	102	109	114	114	114	115	103	92	78

Source: Department of Commerce.

¹ Revised as of June 1, 1955.

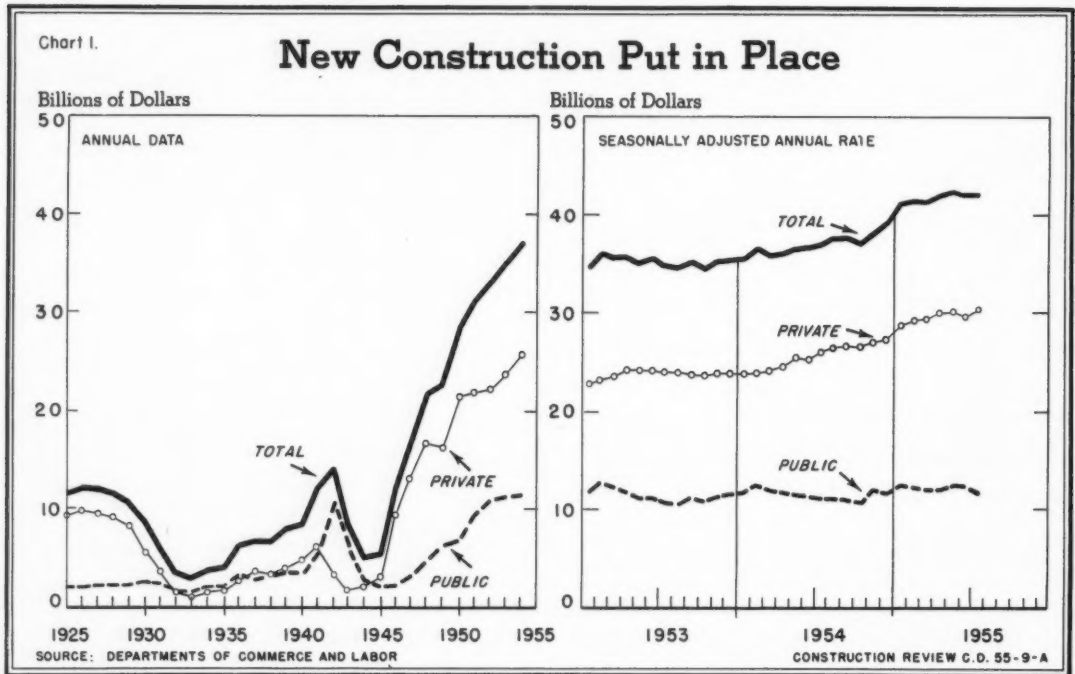


Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	1955			1954	Year					
	June	May	Apr.	June	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,055	2,861	2,624	2,803	22,177	26,608	26,988	27,662	28,931	30,912
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,111	1,983	1,873	1,853	15,956	19,885	18,677	18,428	19,433	20,934
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,192	1,119	1,059	994	8,128	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214
Nonresidential building	503	470	449	432	3,124	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073
Industrial	155	151	152	135	954	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	71	70	67	63	313	396	500	461	640	789
Stores, restaurants, and garages	132	114	101	93	677	828	733	525	857	998
Other nonresidential bldgs.	145	135	129	141	1,180	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596
Farm construction	119	111	96	135	1,479	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,341
Public utility	286	272	259	284	3,151	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,216
All other private	11	11	10	8	74	101	54	69	92	90
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	944	878	751	950	6,221	6,723	8,311	9,234	9,498	9,978
Residential building	19	18	18	22	353	321	512	550	459	281
Nonresidential building	310	299	290	330	1,990	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	3,743
Industrial	57	59	60	108	173	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253
Educational	172	165	158	146	897	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696
Hospital and institutional	26	25	24	28	458	467	466	401	297	289
Other nonresidential building	55	50	48	48	462	497	426	305	403	505
Military facilities	93	91	82	76	134	171	788	1,195	1,105	872
Highway	380	336	239	383	2,128	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,573
Sewer and water	70	69	64	63	586	590	655	639	681	724
Public service enterprises	18	14	11	16	190	164	168	148	146	156
Conservation and development	42	41	37	50	750	786	721	694	639	520
All other public	12	10	10	10	90	87	68	54	86	109

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

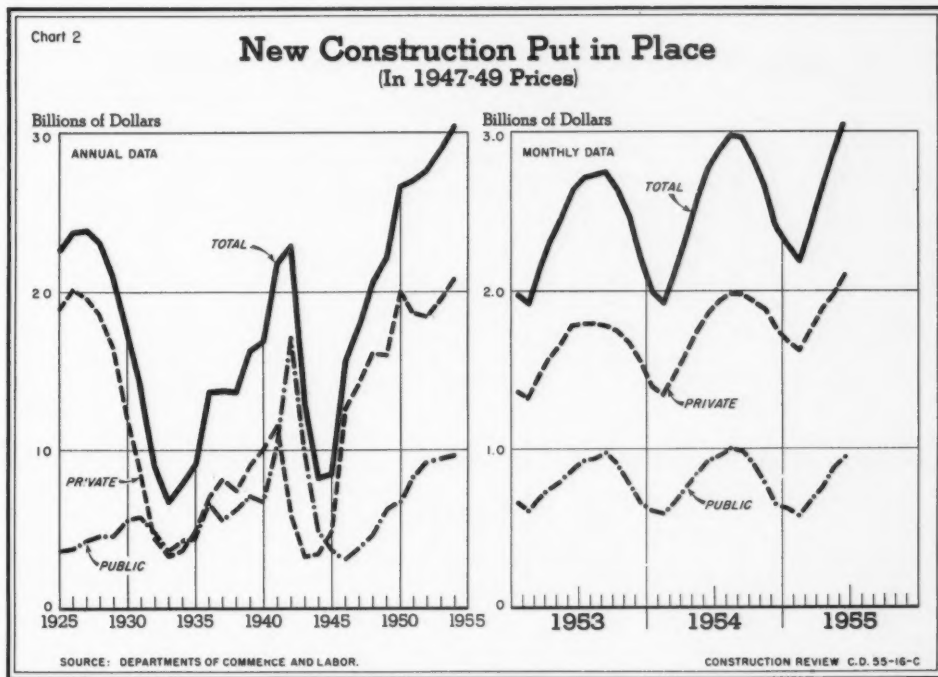


Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)							Percent change			
	1954	1955					First 7 months	July 1955 from--		First 7 months	
	July	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	1954 1955	July 1954	June 1955	1954-55	1954-55
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION..	1,169	795	912	1,059	1,141	1,193	6,476	6,541	+ 2	+ 5	+ 1
Federal funds	393	255	289	322	333	339	2,403	2,021	-14	+ 2	-16
Direct Federal	314	217	232	251	254	252	2,032	1,623	-20	- 1	-20
Federal grants-in-aid ¹	79	38	57	71	79	87	371	398	+10	+10	+ 7
State and local funds	776	540	623	737	808	854	4,073	4,520	+10	+ 6	+11
FEDERALLY OWNED	314	217	232	251	254	252	2,032	1,623	-20	- 1	-20
Residential building	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	-100	0	-100
Nonresidential building	148	85	77	78	75	69	1,036	552	-53	- 8	-47
Industrial	130	81	72	72	69	62	959	516	-52	-10	-46
Educational	2	0	0	1	1	0	5	2	-100	-100	-60
Hospital	2	1	2	1	1	2	24	10	0	+100	-58
Other nonresidential	14	3	3	4	4	5	48	24	-64	+25	-50
Military facilities	90	83	99	110	113	115	551	680	+28	+ 2	+23
Highway	7	3	4	5	6	7	30	30	0	+17	0
Conservation and development	67	45	51	57	59	60	406	355	-10	+ 2	-13
All other federally owned	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	0	0	0
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED.....	855	578	680	808	887	941	4,444	4,918	+10	+ 6	+11
Residential building	23	23	22	22	23	21	217	154	- 9	- 9	-29
Nonresidential building	272	269	289	301	319	323	1,651	1,991	+19	+ 1	+21
Educational	187	190	202	210	220	225	1,178	1,407	+20	+ 2	+19
Hospital	32	27	29	31	32	30	187	194	- 6	- 6	+ 4
Other nonresidential	53	52	58	60	67	68	286	390	+28	+ 1	+36
Highway	433	177	251	355	404	453	1,826	1,940	+ 5	+12	+ 6
Sewer and water	89	83	89	97	99	99	549	614	+11	0	+12
All other State and locally owned	38	26	29	33	42	45	201	219	+18	+ 7	+ 9

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

Part II--New Housing

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

Period	Total	Ownership		Location ¹		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metro- politan	Nonmetro- politan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures		
							All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS (in thousands)									
Year: 1946.....	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947.....	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948.....	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949.....	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950.....	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951.....	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952.....	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953.....	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954.....	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
First 6 months, 1954.....	569.5	558.7	10.8	418.3	151.2	496.8	72.7	24.6	48.1
First 6 months, 1955.....	679.3	670.5	8.8	508.6	170.7	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1954: June.....	116.5	112.6	3.9	87.5	29.0	102.0	14.5	4.3	10.2
July.....	116.0	112.9	3.1	87.5	28.5	101.6	14.4	4.4	10.0
August.....	114.3	113.0	1.3	82.6	31.7	103.0	11.3	4.4	6.9
September.....	115.7	113.4	2.3	82.7	33.0	103.9	11.8	4.5	7.3
October.....	110.7	110.5	.2	80.4	30.3	100.3	10.4	4.5	5.9
November.....	103.6	103.3	.3	75.7	27.9	92.8	10.8	4.5	6.3
December.....	90.6	89.9	.7	69.7	20.9	79.5	11.1	5.0	6.1
1955: January.....	87.6	87.3	.3	68.1	19.5	78.3	9.3	3.6	5.7
February.....	89.9	87.9	2.0	66.9	23.0	78.9	11.0	3.9	7.1
March.....	113.8	112.8	1.0	86.8	27.0	100.1	13.7	5.0	8.7
April.....	127.0	126.5	.5	93.3	33.7	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
May.....	132.0	129.5	2.5	97.5	34.5	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
June.....	129.0	126.5	2.5	96.0	33.0	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Percent change									
First 6 months, 1954-55.....	+19.3	+20.0	-18.5	+21.6	+12.9	--	--	--	--
May-June, 1955.....	- 2.3	- 2.3	0	- 1.5	- 4.3	--	--	--	--
June, 1954-55.....	+10.7	+12.3	-35.9	+ 9.7	+13.8	--	--	--	--
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Year: 1946.....	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947.....	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948.....	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949.....	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950.....	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951.....	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952.....	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953.....	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
First 6 months, 1954.....	100	98.1	1.9	73.5	26.5	87.2	12.8	4.3	8.5
First 6 months, 1955.....	100	98.7	1.3	74.9	25.1	--	--	--	--
1954: June.....	100	96.7	3.3	75.1	24.9	87.6	12.4	3.7	8.7
July.....	100	97.3	2.7	75.4	24.6	87.6	12.4	3.8	8.6
August.....	100	98.9	1.1	72.3	27.7	90.1	9.9	3.9	6.0
September.....	100	98.0	2.0	71.5	28.5	89.8	10.2	3.9	6.3
October.....	100	99.8	.2	72.6	27.4	90.6	9.4	4.1	5.3
November.....	100	99.7	.3	73.1	26.9	89.6	10.4	4.3	6.1
December.....	100	99.2	.8	76.9	23.1	87.7	12.3	5.5	6.8
1955: January.....	100	99.7	.3	77.7	22.3	89.4	10.6	4.1	6.5
February.....	100	97.8	2.2	74.4	25.6	87.8	12.2	4.3	7.9
March.....	100	99.1	.9	76.3	23.7	88.0	12.0	4.4	7.6
April.....	100	99.6	.4	73.5	26.5	--	--	--	--
May.....	100	98.1	1.9	73.9	26.1	--	--	--	--
June.....	100	98.1	1.9	74.4	25.6	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request.² Annual data

not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953.

³ Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the

number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request.

⁴ Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	598	661	752	693	677	655	645	663	634	658	643	646
1947.....	619	667	679	694	735	803	854	923	1,029	1,089	1,064	962
1948.....	851	762	925	1,015	1,000	1,008	986	912	886	838	827	812
1949.....	751	745	792	879	920	950	976	1,035	1,108	1,187	1,259	1,266
1950.....	1,262	1,283	1,406	1,358	1,469	1,496	1,471	1,476	1,278	1,174	1,115	1,292
1951.....	1,333	1,192	1,093	955	984	942	914	946	1,049	1,036	973	978
1952.....	996	1,158	1,104	1,003	1,018	1,011	1,064	1,044	1,092	1,156	1,110	1,111
1953.....	1,106	1,150	1,165	1,111	1,065	1,064	1,015	988	1,014	1,050	1,077	1,060
1954.....	1,056	1,152	1,130	1,102	1,083	1,175	1,188	1,211	1,248	1,287	1,393	1,478
1955.....	1,416	1,370	1,367	1,309	1,306	1,320						

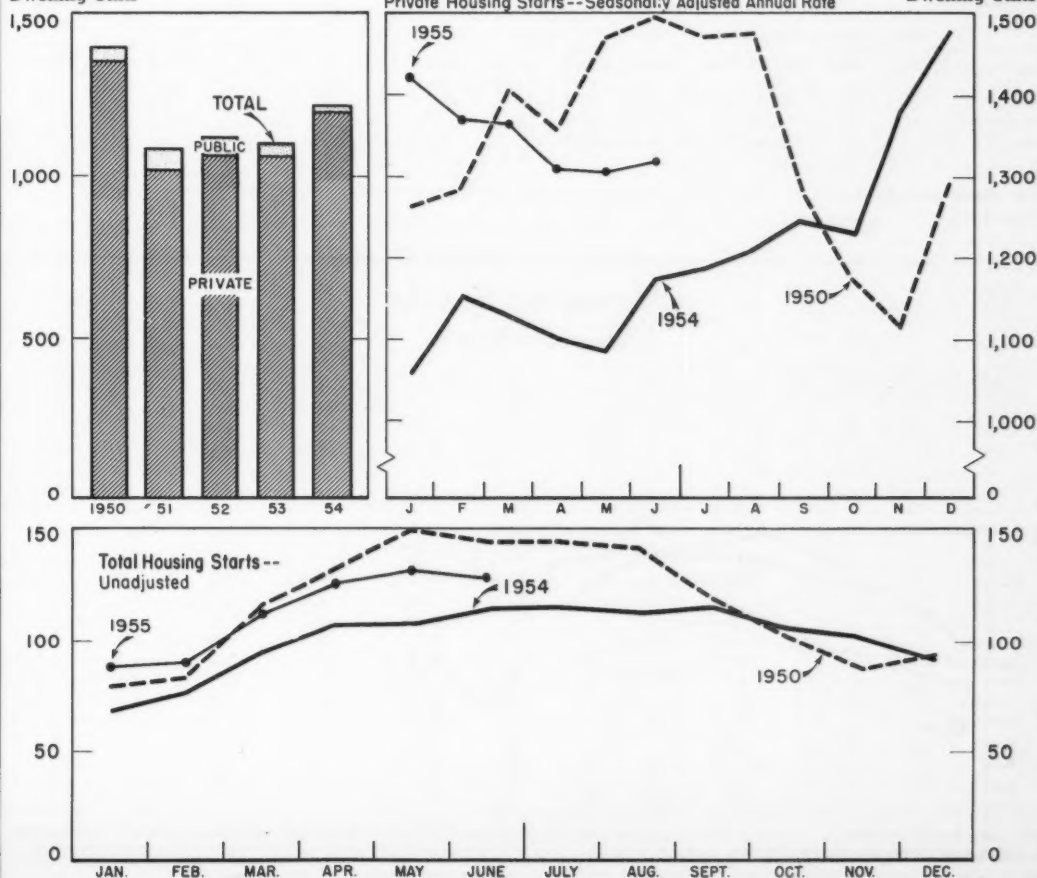
Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3

Thousands of
Dwelling Units

Housing Starts (Annual and Monthly)

Private Housing Starts--Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Thousands of
Dwelling Units

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D.-55-2-G

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST													
1946.....	\$5,250	\$5,400	\$5,850	\$5,575	\$5,475	\$5,425	\$5,375	\$5,450	\$5,450	\$5,625	\$5,675	\$5,575	\$5,525
1947.....	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948.....	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949.....	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950.....	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951.....	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952.....	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953.....	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954.....	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955.....	10,575	11,125	11,250	(1)	(1)	(1)							
Percent change, 1954 to 1955													
	+8.5	+13.5	+11.7	--	--	--							

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Not yet available.Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region ¹

Region	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											Percent change, first 3 months 1954-55
	1954						1955			First 3 months		
	Mar.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1954	1955	
TOTAL	95.2	114.3	115.7	110.7	103.6	90.6	87.6	89.9	113.8	236.8	291.3	+23.0
Northeast	21.1	24.8	22.4	21.6	19.0	15.3	16.0	13.5	23.6	47.4	53.1	+12.0
North Central	23.2	32.6	31.9	30.1	26.8	20.0	15.6	19.7	28.1	52.7	63.4	+20.3
South	29.0	31.7	36.0	31.8	31.5	28.0	30.6	32.4	32.9	77.6	95.9	+23.6
West	21.9	25.2	25.4	27.2	26.3	27.3	25.4	24.3	29.2	59.1	78.9	+33.5

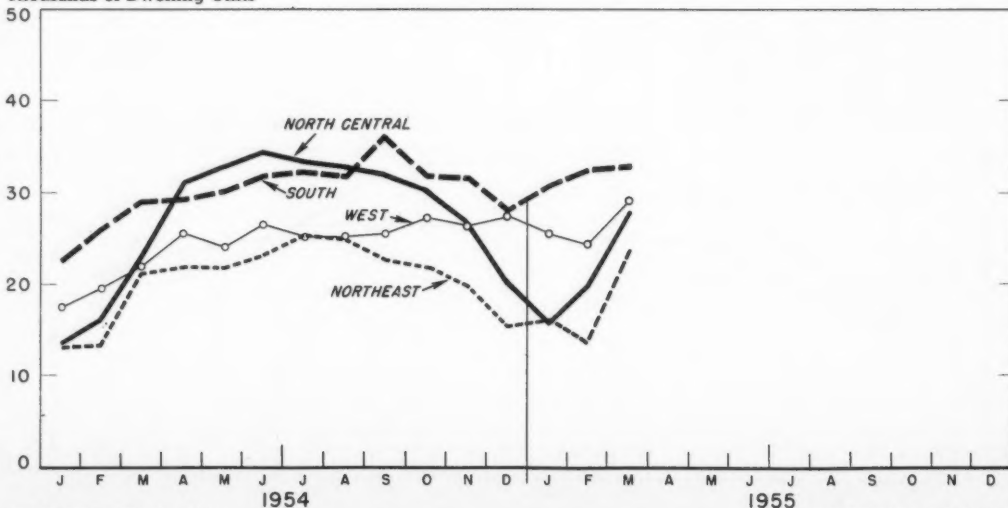
Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2.

Chart 4

Housing Starts
(Regional Trends)

Thousands of Dwelling Units



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D-55-2-1

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

17

Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started	In appraisal requests	Started	U. S. total	FHA-assisted	VA-assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950	397,696	486,681	(1)	200,000	100	36	15
1951	192,759	263,523	164,365	148,634	100	26	15
1952	267,915	279,901	226,299	141,274	100	26	13
1953	253,726	251,969	251,437	156,616	100	24	15
1954	338,581	276,307	535,412	307,038	100	23	26
First 6 mos., 1954	160,937	125,443	238,954	114,334	100	22	20
First 6 mos., 1955	183,511	146,831	369,895	195,842	100	22	29
1954: June	35,207	27,666	52,749	27,891	100	25	25
July	30,143	25,430	52,291	26,810	100	23	24
August	32,166	26,999	55,350	33,259	100	24	29
September	34,831	25,882	51,265	33,938	100	23	30
October	29,325	24,665	45,572	33,501	100	22	30
November	26,851	26,344	47,729	36,017	100	26	35
December	24,328	21,543	44,251	29,147	100	24	33
1955: January	25,647	20,021	46,204	26,069	100	23	30
February	28,349	17,204	64,192	28,048	100	19	32
March	35,597	23,785	71,939	29,850	100	21	26
April	33,101	25,773	65,856	34,486	100	23	27
May	30,102	28,019	69,280	37,847	100	22	29
June	30,715	32,029	52,424	39,542	100	25	31
	Percent change						
First 6 mos., 1954-55..	+14	+17	+55	+71			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (FHFA) and the Veterans Administration. ¹ Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number (in thousands)	Average amount (dollars)	Total amount (in millions of dollars) recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950	3,032	5,535	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
First 5 mos., 1954	1,286	6,358	8,178	2,994	590	1,535	502	1,132	1,425
First 5 mos., 1955	1,576	7,153	11,277	4,169	818	2,140	666	1,338	2,146
1954: May	278	6,484	1,804	675	124	330	118	231	327
June	303	6,573	1,990	741	146	368	133	249	352
July	306	6,624	2,027	734	155	371	141	251	374
August	312	6,684	2,086	770	166	369	138	252	391
September	313	6,789	2,122	766	164	383	141	250	417
October	314	6,874	2,156	765	178	393	140	248	431
November	307	7,004	2,148	757	177	399	147	246	420
December	318	7,131	2,267	784	191	420	158	252	462
1955: January	284	7,120	2,024	688	165	379	128	246	419
February	277	7,077	1,958	702	151	365	116	228	396
March	343	7,153	2,455	928	174	458	134	303	459
April	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276	424
May	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286	449
	Percent change								
First 5 mos., 1954-55..	+23	+13	+38	+39	+39	+39	+33	+18	+51

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HLBB).

Part III--Building Permits

Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building

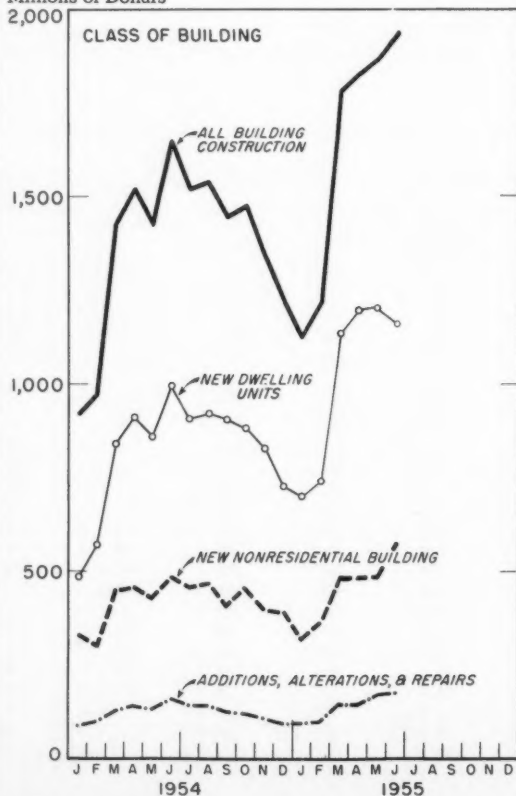
Type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, June 1954-55
	1955			1954	First 6 months		
	June	May	Apr.	June	1955	1954	
All building construction ¹	1,940.0	1,863.7	1,839.7	1,655.3	7,920.5	7,915.7	+17
Private	1,743.7	1,713.3	1,710.8	1,440.0	7,236.5	7,027.6	+21
Public.....	196.3	150.3	128.9	215.3	684.0	888.1	-9
New dwelling units ²	1,163.1	1,206.1	1,199.7	997.1	4,946.8	4,668.7	+17
Number of new dwelling units	(114,500)	(120,130)	(119,188)	(108,179)	(504,615)	(519,412)	(+6)
New nonresidential buildings	578.3	477.8	476.9	485.5	2,229.9	2,436.9	+19
Commercial buildings	183.0	168.1	156.2	126.9	715.9	705.9	+44
Stores and other mercantile buildings	98.2	95.5	83.7	73.4	393.0	405.2	+34
All other commercial buildings	84.8	72.6	72.5	53.5	322.9	300.7	+59
Community buildings.....	209.6	174.0	164.8	202.5	810.7	965.4	+4
Industrial buildings.....	86.1	65.7	66.0	57.6	320.6	344.0	+49
All other nonresidential buildings	99.6	70.0	89.9	98.5	382.8	421.6	+1
Additions, alterations, and repairs	177.6	169.8	146.3	159.9	664.9	738.7	+11

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ² Housekeeping only.

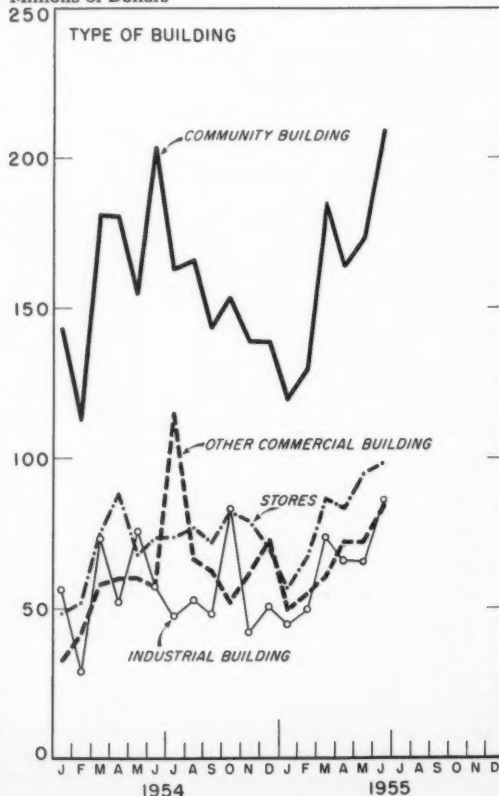
Chart 5

Building Permit Activity

Millions of Dollars



Millions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 55-2-J

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

19

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building and Region ¹

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 5 months		
	May	Mar.	Apr.	May	1954	1955	
UNITED STATES							
All building construction ²	1,422.6	1,788.6	1,839.7	1,863.7	6,260.3	7,844.1	+25
New dwelling units ³	854.0	1,136.1	1,199.7	1,206.1	3,671.6	4,989.8	+36
New nonresidential building.....	425.0	489.2	476.9	477.8	1,951.5	2,129.4	+9
Commercial buildings.....	124.9	146.9	156.2	168.1	578.9	701.0	+21
Amusement buildings.....	9.6	6.0	10.2	12.3	41.5	47.3	+14
Commercial garages.....	6.3	3.0	4.1	10.9	25.2	25.7	+2
Gasoline and service stations.....	10.0	12.2	13.5	13.3	44.0	56.3	+28
Office buildings.....	30.8	39.2	44.7	36.0	136.4	181.4	+33
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	68.2	86.5	83.7	95.5	331.9	390.3	+18
Community buildings.....	153.2	184.9	164.8	174.0	762.8	775.1	+2
Educational buildings.....	91.5	127.3	108.4	115.3	490.6	513.5	+5
Institutional buildings.....	24.0	25.4	20.3	23.9	139.6	114.2	-18
Religious buildings.....	37.7	32.2	36.0	34.8	132.7	147.4	+11
Garages, private residential.....	17.0	13.2	19.7	20.4	56.5	64.5	+14
Industrial buildings.....	75.7	74.0	66.0	65.7	286.4	300.2	+5
Public buildings.....	14.2	26.4	24.2	18.6	98.1	102.1	+4
Public utilities buildings.....	24.8	24.4	31.5	15.0	87.8	112.6	+28
All other nonresidential buildings.....	15.2	19.5	14.6	15.9	80.9	74.0	-9
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	130.4	145.4	146.3	169.8	578.9	657.1	+14
Northeast							
All building construction ²	314.8	386.1	405.0	411.5	1,437.6	1,675.8	+17
New dwelling units ³	188.9	244.9	262.1	270.5	834.9	1,046.0	+25
New nonresidential building.....	89.2	106.2	107.5	102.4	456.2	476.3	+4
Commercial buildings.....	23.5	26.3	41.2	31.5	118.4	145.8	+23
Amusement buildings.....	2.0	1.2	2.2	1.7	8.1	7.5	-7
Commercial garages.....	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	8.0	8.2	+3
Gasoline and service stations.....	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.5	7.3	9.6	+32
Office buildings.....	4.4	5.8	18.6	12.4	23.6	56.0	+137
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	14.6	15.7	16.5	13.4	71.4	64.4	-10
Community buildings.....	36.4	40.7	40.8	39.1	194.0	196.0	+1
Educational buildings.....	21.3	26.9	29.1	23.3	130.0	134.1	+3
Institutional buildings.....	7.6	7.3	2.4	8.5	37.1	29.6	-20
Religious buildings.....	7.6	6.5	9.3	7.2	26.9	32.3	+20
Garages, private residential.....	3.8	3.0	4.0	4.4	12.9	13.8	+7
Industrial buildings.....	17.5	19.3	14.0	17.1	83.8	71.8	-14
Public buildings.....	3.7	2.7	2.3	1.9	23.9	8.0	-67
Public utilities buildings.....	1.9	7.4	3.0	5.3	11.0	21.7	+97
All other nonresidential buildings.....	2.3	6.8	2.2	3.1	12.2	19.3	+58
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	35.8	32.8	33.6	36.9	136.8	143.5	+5
North Central							
All building construction ²	461.0	501.4	590.5	589.0	1,818.2	2,232.2	+23
New dwelling units ³	277.9	314.1	384.5	397.5	1,057.9	1,420.9	+34
New nonresidential building.....	143.2	142.9	163.5	141.3	593.7	629.5	+6
Commercial buildings.....	41.0	37.4	45.6	44.5	163.9	183.9	+12
Amusement buildings.....	3.2	1.5	5.4	4.9	15.3	15.7	+3
Commercial garages.....	2.5	.6	.7	4.0	9.9	6.2	-37
Gasoline and service stations.....	3.5	3.5	4.9	4.3	13.3	17.1	+29
Office buildings.....	11.2	7.1	10.1	8.0	32.9	36.8	+12
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	20.6	24.8	24.4	23.3	92.4	108.1	+17
Community buildings.....	45.0	52.1	52.0	52.1	209.9	228.2	+9
Educational buildings.....	24.2	34.2	37.1	33.7	128.2	151.0	+18
Institutional buildings.....	10.0	7.5	3.5	4.4	45.2	29.2	-35
Religious buildings.....	10.8	10.4	11.4	14.0	36.5	47.9	+31
Garages, private residential.....	9.1	5.7	11.0	11.2	25.1	31.0	+24
Industrial buildings.....	19.3	29.3	26.1	21.2	92.0	103.0	+12
Public buildings.....	4.6	9.0	12.8	5.1	28.5	37.0	+30
Public utilities buildings.....	19.5	6.8	13.5	4.8	47.8	37.4	-22
All other nonresidential buildings.....	4.8	2.5	2.4	2.3	26.6	9.0	-66
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	35.8	42.7	39.3	48.3	152.0	173.0	+14

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region ¹--Continued

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 5 months		
	May	Mar.	Apr.	May	1954	1955	
	South						
All building construction ²	335.9	460.0	414.4	434.4	1,574.9	2,029.1	+29
New dwelling units ³	186.7	281.8	255.6	263.5	871.9	1,234.2	+42
New nonresidential building	114.4	133.6	110.1	124.4	527.8	582.9	+10
Commercial buildings	34.2	43.3	39.1	54.8	183.9	213.0	+16
Amusement buildings	2.3	2.3	1.6	4.3	11.2	17.0	+52
Commercial garages	1.6	.6	1.0	4.9	4.4	9.1	+107
Gasoline and service stations	2.8	4.0	3.4	4.1	14.7	18.3	+24
Office buildings	6.3	13.4	8.2	6.6	46.8	47.0	(4)
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	21.2	23.0	24.9	34.9	106.8	121.6	+14
Community buildings	43.9	56.1	40.7	47.6	207.9	213.0	+ 2
Educational buildings	24.9	37.8	17.8	31.0	119.2	122.1	+ 2
Institutional buildings	5.2	7.7	12.6	7.4	40.8	43.8	+ 7
Religious buildings	13.8	10.7	10.4	9.2	47.9	47.1	- 2
Garages, private residential	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	7.3	7.7	+ 5
Industrial buildings	27.4	8.2	11.2	7.8	66.5	52.2	-22
Public buildings	1.8	10.8	4.7	4.9	24.8	35.0	+41
Public utilities buildings	2.4	8.5	8.1	3.3	17.7	41.0	+132
All other nonresidential buildings	3.1	4.8	4.5	4.3	19.6	21.0	+ 7
Additions, alterations, and repairs	32.2	36.9	39.2	43.7	157.7	184.0	+17
	West						
All building construction ²	310.8	441.0	429.8	428.9	1,429.7	1,907.0	+33
New dwelling units ³	200.5	295.3	297.5	274.6	906.9	1,288.7	+42
New nonresidential building	78.2	106.5	95.9	109.7	373.7	440.6	+18
Commercial buildings	26.1	39.9	30.4	37.3	112.8	158.3	+40
Amusement buildings	2.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	6.8	7.0	+ 3
Commercial garages	1.1	.4	.8	.4	2.8	2.2	-21
Gasoline and service stations	2.1	2.5	3.0	2.5	8.8	11.4	+30
Office buildings	8.9	13.0	7.8	9.0	33.1	41.5	+25
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	11.9	22.9	17.9	23.9	61.2	96.1	+57
Community buildings	27.8	36.0	31.2	35.3	151.0	137.9	- 9
Educational buildings	21.1	28.4	24.4	27.2	113.2	106.4	- 6
Institutional buildings	1.2	2.9	1.8	3.7	16.4	11.5	-30
Religious buildings	5.5	4.7	5.0	4.3	21.4	20.1	- 6
Garages, private residential	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.0	11.2	11.9	+ 6
Industrial buildings	11.6	17.2	14.7	19.6	44.0	73.2	+66
Public buildings	4.2	3.9	4.4	6.7	20.9	22.1	+ 6
Public utilities buildings	1.0	1.8	6.8	1.6	11.3	12.5	+11
All other nonresidential buildings	5.0	5.3	5.5	6.2	22.5	24.8	+10
Additions, alterations, and repairs	26.6	33.0	34.2	40.9	132.3	156.7	+18

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2. ² Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ³ Housekeeping only. ⁴ Change of less than 0.5 per cent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

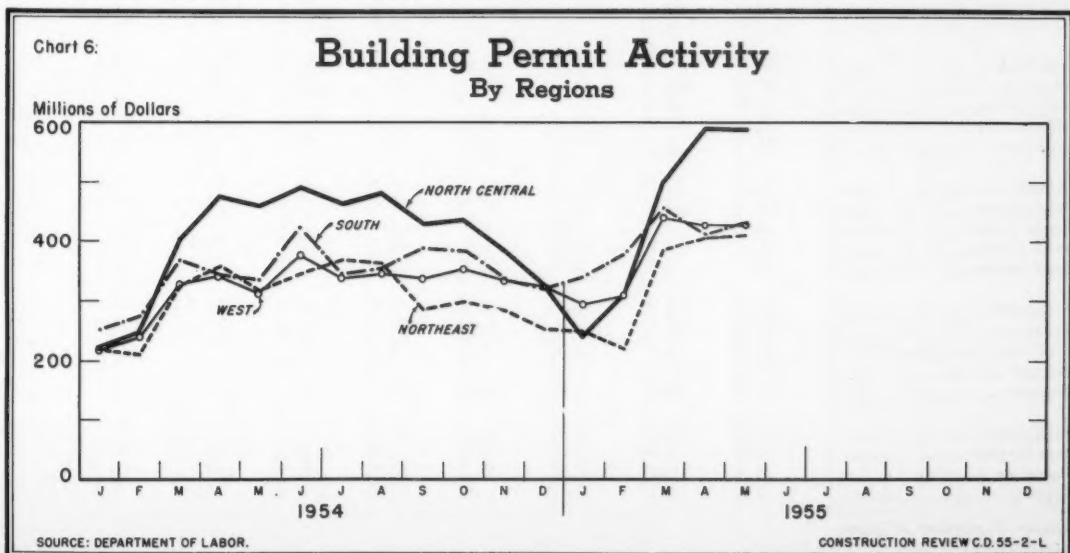
21

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region ¹

(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation (in millions of dollars)					Number of dwelling units				
	1954		1955		First 5 months	1954		1955		First 5 months
	May	Apr.	May	1954	1955	May	Apr.	May	1954	1955
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units	854.0	1,199.7	1,206.1	3,671.6	4,989.8	91,984	119,188	120,130	411,233	510,245
Privately owned	845.7	1,192.6	1,181.0	3,608.9	4,926.7	90,981	118,386	117,365	404,131	503,384
1-family	781.2	1,124.9	1,099.6	3,260.2	4,580.6	80,758	107,449	104,367	346,821	447,463
2-4 family	24.7	31.1	29.9	123.8	136.0	4,106	4,804	4,699	21,221	22,077
5-or-more family	39.8	36.7	51.5	224.9	210.2	6,117	6,133	8,299	36,089	33,844
Publicly owned	8.3	7.1	25.1	62.8	63.1	1,003	802	2,765	7,102	6,861
Northeast										
All new dwelling units	188.9	262.1	270.5	834.9	1,046.0	19,202	25,660	26,515	89,238	102,740
Privately owned	188.9	255.0	256.4	814.7	1,016.5	19,202	24,858	24,976	87,136	99,473
1-family	168.1	233.2	233.2	688.0	905.6	16,506	21,955	21,707	69,558	85,020
2-4 family	5.3	7.1	5.3	23.8	28.0	785	1,005	765	3,518	4,008
5-or-more family	15.6	14.8	17.9	103.0	83.0	1,911	1,898	2,504	14,060	10,445
Publicly owned	0	7.1	14.1	20.1	29.5	0	802	1,539	2,102	3,267
North Central										
All new dwelling units	277.9	384.5	397.5	1,057.9	1,420.9	26,261	32,759	34,308	100,101	123,218
Privately owned	272.6	384.5	389.5	1,036.2	1,406.4	25,666	32,759	33,449	97,682	121,699
1-family	257.4	371.5	367.7	977.8	1,340.9	23,804	31,133	30,962	90,347	113,671
2-4 family	6.8	9.2	9.0	28.9	35.8	849	1,053	1,025	3,567	4,135
5-or-more family	8.3	3.8	12.9	29.5	29.8	1,013	573	1,462	3,768	3,893
Publicly owned	5.4	0	8.0	21.7	14.5	595	0	859	2,419	1,519
South										
All new dwelling units	186.7	255.6	263.5	871.9	1,234.2	23,301	29,565	30,321	114,581	145,794
Privately owned	185.0	255.6	260.5	859.9	1,227.3	23,044	29,565	29,954	113,078	144,970
1-family	175.9	245.5	246.4	801.4	1,163.7	21,051	27,313	26,831	100,118	131,047
2-4 family	4.9	5.6	7.0	25.9	30.2	1,083	1,200	1,361	5,768	6,511
5-or-more family	4.1	4.4	7.1	32.6	33.6	910	1,052	1,762	7,192	7,412
Publicly owned	1.7	0	3.0	12.0	6.9	257	0	367	1,503	824
West										
All new dwelling units	200.5	297.5	274.6	906.9	1,288.7	23,220	31,204	28,986	107,313	138,493
Privately owned	199.3	297.5	274.6	898.0	1,276.5	23,069	31,204	28,986	106,235	137,242
1-family	179.7	274.7	252.3	793.1	1,170.5	19,397	27,048	24,867	86,798	117,725
2-4 family	7.6	9.2	8.6	45.2	42.1	1,389	1,546	1,548	8,368	7,423
5-or-more family	11.9	13.7	13.6	59.7	63.9	2,283	2,610	2,571	11,069	12,094
Publicly owned	1.2	0	0	8.9	12.2	151	0	0	1,078	1,251

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2.



CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Millions of dollars)

State	1954		1955				First 4 months		Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55
	Apr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	1,522.3	1,226.7	1,126.8	1,223.1	1,788.6	1,839.7	4,837.8	5,980.5	+24
Metropolitan areas	1,215.2	1,010.2	926.1	993.7	1,434.6	1,463.4	3,905.7	4,820.2	+23
Nonmetropolitan areas	307.1	216.5	200.7	229.4	354.0	376.3	932.1	1,160.3	+24
Alabama	10.4	7.8	9.9	14.3	15.4	14.3	39.7	53.9	+36
Arizona	13.3	12.5	12.1	15.4	17.2	15.1	45.6	59.8	+31
Arkansas	6.8	6.1	4.1	4.2	5.2	6.5	18.9	20.0	+6
California	232.4	222.9	206.3	209.9	308.4	304.6	770.8	1,029.2	+34
Colorado	19.7	24.2	23.1	18.0	25.9	25.4	63.4	92.4	+46
Connecticut	26.0	21.4	17.1	17.3	37.8	39.7	84.9	111.8	+32
Delaware	6.1	1.5	2.9	2.3	6.9	7.1	13.9	19.2	+38
District of Columbia	3.2	9.5	2.3	5.0	10.0	2.7	17.5	20.1	+15
Florida	44.9	56.7	57.2	61.2	71.3	60.9	197.9	250.6	+27
Georgia	22.9	20.1	24.7	23.7	23.6	19.7	79.3	91.7	+16
Idaho	2.7	1.4	.7	1.7	3.2	4.1	7.6	9.6	+26
Illinois	96.8	70.2	49.8	63.0	118.6	131.6	283.1	363.0	+28
Indiana	38.1	20.0	18.2	19.8	39.7	31.4	105.2	109.2	+4
Iowa	16.4	7.8	5.5	5.9	22.0	19.4	38.1	52.6	+38
Kansas	14.9	13.8	9.5	14.3	18.1	17.9	49.1	59.7	+22
Kentucky	18.2	6.6	10.7	8.4	13.4	15.7	66.4	48.2	-27
Louisiana	18.5	16.3	27.1	34.6	24.5	25.7	65.5	111.9	+71
Maine	3.8	4.7	.5	1.7	2.6	2.9	7.2	7.7	+7
Maryland	34.7	30.9	35.3	42.3	40.9	48.3	118.7	166.8	+41
Massachusetts	42.4	27.7	20.4	24.3	45.2	42.8	115.2	132.7	+15
Michigan	95.3	69.7	54.8	62.2	92.2	115.9	275.3	325.1	+18
Minnesota	36.3	25.0	12.8	16.1	32.4	51.7	103.1	113.0	+10
Mississippi	4.1	7.7	3.3	4.7	5.4	3.6	18.7	16.9	-10
Missouri	31.4	23.5	19.0	28.1	30.9	33.0	99.5	111.0	+12
Montana	4.7	2.9	1.3	.8	2.9	4.4	10.2	9.3	-9
Nebraska	7.1	4.5	3.2	2.7	9.8	19.0	20.6	34.8	+69
Nevada	5.2	8.7	6.2	7.5	7.2	5.3	21.0	26.1	+24
New Hampshire	3.2	4.4	.9	.8	4.2	5.0	6.6	11.0	+67
New Jersey	67.4	49.4	48.9	44.3	78.8	83.7	219.1	255.7	+17
New Mexico	6.8	3.7	6.8	5.8	8.4	10.3	26.8	31.3	+17
New York	127.4	101.8	98.4	81.0	126.9	147.7	434.5	455.6	+5
North Carolina	15.6	12.9	15.8	19.7	26.0	18.6	59.2	80.0	+35
North Dakota	2.8	1.1	.3	.3	1.2	5.8	5.9	7.6	+29
Ohio	92.3	65.8	50.1	64.2	101.0	115.8	266.0	331.0	+24
Oklahoma	13.7	8.8	10.4	11.9	17.4	20.1	44.4	59.8	+35
Oregon	13.8	9.7	8.3	13.1	13.4	14.2	41.2	48.9	+19
Pennsylvania	83.3	44.1	60.4	49.3	85.6	77.1	236.0	273.1	+16
Rhode Island	5.9	2.1	3.4	1.9	4.3	5.2	17.4	14.7	-16
South Carolina	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.0	18.7	6.7	21.9	37.6	+72
South Dakota	3.7	1.8	1.1	1.0	2.6	5.2	6.7	10.0	+49
Tennessee	18.4	13.2	18.9	14.3	19.0	21.7	57.9	74.0	+28
Texas	73.3	87.5	83.8	90.0	107.9	91.6	275.2	373.3	+36
Utah	7.9	4.9	3.1	4.2	14.6	11.5	23.7	33.3	+41
Vermont	1.3	.8	.2	.2	.8	.9	1.8	2.1	+17
Virginia	39.8	25.9	26.6	33.7	49.1	45.3	127.7	154.7	+21
Washington	31.8	31.2	27.9	33.3	38.4	33.4	102.7	133.1	+30
West Virginia	5.5	2.6	2.1	2.7	5.4	5.8	16.0	16.0	0
Wisconsin	43.6	23.0	14.2	35.2	33.1	43.8	104.7	126.3	+21
Wyoming	2.0	1.8	1.1	.9	1.5	1.6	6.1	5.1	-16

Source: Department of Labor.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

23

Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

State	(Housekeeping units only)								Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55
	1954		1955				First 4 months		
	Apr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	100,701	77,409	76,268	78,864	115,578	119,188	319,249	390,115	+22
Metropolitan areas	81,003	63,233	61,710	62,580	92,632	94,585	258,111	311,724	+21
Nonmetropolitan areas	19,698	14,176	14,558	16,284	22,946	24,603	61,138	78,391	+28
Alabama	1,147	724	870	1,265	1,348	1,182	3,595	4,665	+30
Arizona	1,144	1,208	1,161	1,321	1,453	1,409	3,547	5,344	+51
Arkansas	442	313	339	407	513	547	1,314	1,806	+37
California	18,227	18,456	16,736	15,881	23,283	22,941	61,069	78,841	+29
Colorado	1,451	1,654	2,211	1,498	2,164	1,867	4,756	7,740	+63
Connecticut	1,478	994	892	886	2,005	1,747	4,602	5,530	+20
Delaware	334	111	122	152	426	624	762	1,324	+74
District of Columbia	158	324	74	225	966	200	1,015	1,465	+44
Florida	3,646	4,085	5,058	4,510	5,167	4,478	14,694	19,213	+31
Georgia	1,625	1,688	1,534	1,751	2,096	1,750	6,171	7,131	+16
Idaho	159	94	50	64	218	225	386	557	+44
Illinois	5,517	3,634	2,421	3,220	6,838	7,425	15,158	19,904	+31
Indiana	2,535	928	1,052	1,074	2,040	2,043	6,045	6,209	+ 3
Iowa	841	506	327	359	914	1,122	1,897	2,722	+43
Kansas	1,112	1,014	812	837	1,097	1,090	3,437	3,836	+12
Kentucky	1,002	520	662	607	1,049	1,273	3,212	3,591	+12
Louisiana	1,192	907	1,133	1,381	1,650	1,087	4,201	5,251	+25
Maine	111	52	36	24	76	207	200	343	+72
Maryland	3,351	2,451	2,547	3,824	2,800	3,087	9,938	12,258	+23
Massachusetts	2,216	1,460	1,463	1,448	2,488	2,630	6,531	8,029	+23
Michigan	5,862	2,896	3,239	3,138	5,154	6,794	15,984	18,325	+15
Minnesota	1,873	1,043	613	795	1,534	2,416	4,101	5,358	+31
Mississippi	325	364	250	376	336	327	1,197	1,289	+ 8
Missouri	1,578	939	1,047	1,984	1,407	1,655	5,866	6,093	+ 4
Montana	211	121	108	31	118	287	406	544	+34
Nebraska	516	391	281	205	682	769	1,304	1,937	+49
Nevada	313	221	271	401	239	169	1,404	1,380	-23
New Hampshire	234	105	73	56	161	312	455	602	+32
New Jersey	4,332	2,671	3,740	2,746	4,519	5,901	16,004	16,906	+ 6
New Mexico	602	297	635	580	543	512	2,368	2,270	- 4
New York	9,458	6,557	5,638	4,260	9,187	9,776	30,344	29,078	- 4
North Carolina	964	849	1,019	1,320	1,487	1,155	4,186	4,981	+19
North Dakota	150	40	10	1	64	293	298	368	+23
Ohio	5,465	3,690	2,569	3,458	5,080	6,321	14,006	17,428	+24
Oklahoma	929	681	870	921	1,298	1,114	3,191	4,203	+32
Oregon	851	541	540	529	684	714	2,331	2,467	+ 6
Pennsylvania	3,301	1,965	2,084	3,012	4,757	4,733	10,541	14,586	+38
Rhode Island	298	190	276	151	324	321	1,276	1,072	-16
South Carolina	383	343	511	495	519	475	1,542	2,000	+30
South Dakota	264	105	68	63	172	338	480	641	+34
Tennessee	1,388	1,288	2,074	1,282	1,481	1,628	4,705	6,465	+37
Texas	5,896	5,635	6,443	6,581	7,822	6,813	20,432	27,659	+35
Utah	541	322	218	219	964	866	1,659	2,267	+37
Vermont	52	11	15	6	25	33	83	79	- 5
Virginia	2,384	1,680	1,844	2,155	3,696	3,468	10,283	11,163	+ 9
Washington	2,014	1,980	1,390	2,246	2,315	2,123	5,782	8,074	+40
West Virginia	300	104	153	150	349	357	842	1,009	+20
Wisconsin	2,410	1,153	706	911	1,979	2,493	5,264	6,089	+16
Wyoming	119	104	83	58	91	91	385	323	-16

Source: Department of Labor.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1954		1955				First 4 months		Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55
	Apr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	13.2	12.6	18.0	12.8	15.6	11.8	39.9	58.2	+46
Baltimore, Md.	14.6	14.3	18.1	28.6	22.3	23.9	68.3	92.8	+36
Birmingham, Ala.	3.5	2.7	4.8	6.5	5.9	5.5	13.6	22.7	+67
Boston, Mass.	21.9	13.4	11.9	15.0	21.7	25.2	64.5	73.7	+14
Buffalo, N. Y.	14.9	6.8	7.2	7.6	14.8	16.4	40.8	46.0	+13
Chicago, Ill.	88.0	65.9	44.9	54.3	101.6	114.2	247.9	315.0	+27
Cleveland, Ohio	26.5	20.6	16.2	17.0	33.2	34.7	71.5	101.0	+41
Columbus, Ohio	11.7	10.0	6.2	9.4	10.7	10.8	31.1	37.2	+20
Denver, Colo.	13.1	17.7	17.2	11.1	15.9	16.5	43.5	60.7	+40
Detroit, Mich.	56.8	54.0	41.4	42.4	62.5	71.4	192.8	217.7	+13
Indianapolis, Ind.	9.8	7.6	6.5	4.7	9.3	8.1	27.1	28.5	+ 5
Los Angeles, Calif.	117.9	120.6	112.5	103.4	157.6	158.9	396.2	532.4	+34
Memphis, Tenn.	5.8	4.7	8.6	6.0	6.7	8.5	19.6	29.8	+52
Miami, Fla.	13.8	19.9	20.2	25.5	28.3	21.4	63.5	95.3	+50
Milwaukee, Wis.	22.4	13.2	5.2	21.6	14.4	16.1	55.9	57.3	+ 3
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	131.4	116.8	107.3	88.8	144.9	148.1	476.7	490.8	+ 3
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.7	3.8	4.3	4.6	6.8	7.3	27.1	23.1	-15
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.2	9.4	9.1	10.2	12.2	10.6	34.9	42.2	+21
Rochester, N. Y.	4.5	4.8	7.7	5.4	5.9	8.9	17.1	27.9	+63
Salt Lake City, Utah	4.6	2.3	2.0	2.6	7.7	6.8	13.4	19.1	+43
San Diego, Calif.	16.1	11.5	13.7	13.7	12.7	16.1	51.3	56.2	+10
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	34.8	30.3	28.8	30.2	53.0	49.3	118.8	161.3	+36
Seattle, Wash.	14.4	16.1	16.8	12.8	17.9	15.3	44.9	62.8	+40
Washington, D. C.	28.9	33.0	21.6	24.7	36.8	37.9	91.7	121.0	+32

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1954		1955				First 4 months		Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55
	Apr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	977	988	885	985	1,276	1,035	3,469	4,181	+21
Baltimore, Md.	1,024	990	1,196	2,512	1,382	1,440	5,164	6,530	+26
Birmingham, Ala.	340	284	313	474	509	476	1,358	1,772	+30
Boston, Mass.	1,052	748	783	680	1,136	1,180	3,267	3,779	+16
Buffalo, N. Y.	720	421	470	522	1,095	1,162	1,973	3,249	+65
Chicago, Ill.	5,139	3,238	2,258	2,827	6,090	6,365	13,918	17,540	+26
Cleveland, Ohio	1,374	1,130	745	876	1,365	1,755	3,395	4,741	+40
Columbus, Ohio	884	457	418	606	433	582	1,889	2,039	+ 8
Denver, Colo.	817	1,201	1,802	989	1,542	1,294	3,006	5,627	+87
Detroit, Mich.	3,719	1,976	2,380	2,306	3,256	4,372	11,293	12,314	+ 9
Indianapolis, Ind.	748	272	272	305	576	564	1,653	1,717	+ 4
Los Angeles, Calif.	9,788	9,772	9,042	7,455	11,618	12,027	32,750	40,142	+23
Memphis, Tenn.	601	647	1,355	530	496	668	2,029	3,049	+50
Miami, Fla.	1,262	1,029	1,627	1,428	1,817	1,520	4,727	6,392	+35
Milwaukee, Wis.	1,107	651	365	536	812	790	2,582	2,503	- 3
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	10,039	6,906	6,832	4,778	9,565	9,922	33,820	31,314	- 7
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	436	330	230	572	632	813	2,246	2,247	(1)
Phoenix, Ariz.	923	971	926	1,043	1,070	986	2,778	4,025	+45
Rochester, N. Y.	310	394	272	145	482	569	976	1,468	+50
Salt Lake City, Utah	315	127	161	124	555	492	1,033	1,332	+29
San Diego, Calif.	875	858	962	1,055	951	960	3,724	3,928	+ 5
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	2,487	2,280	2,161	2,082	3,620	3,639	7,841	11,502	+47
Seattle, Wash.	952	956	751	783	1,247	1,012	2,710	3,793	+40
Washington, D. C.	2,833	2,263	1,378	1,733	2,807	2,495	8,109	8,413	+ 4

Source: Department of Labor.

1 Change of less than 0.5 percent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

25

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Class of Construction and Type of Building

April 1955 (Thousands of dollars)

Class of construction and type of building	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction ¹	11,801	23,865	5,467	25,157	16,411	114,211	34,671	10,813
New dwelling units ²	8,842	15,214	3,371	12,040	11,145	85,196	27,052	8,224
New nonresidential building	2,039	5,179	1,171	9,720	4,350	23,644	5,898	1,805
Commercial buildings	1,060	560	534	1,353	847	4,633	1,504	295
Amusement buildings	12	0	0	239	0	85	385	0
Commercial garages	0	129	0	295	21	46	23	8
Gasoline and service stations	102	88	18	97	155	522	163	46
Office buildings	351	59	115	71	195	652	80	34
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	595	285	400	651	476	3,327	853	208
Community buildings	164	3,486	281	4,758	2,778	6,900	2,864	110
Educational buildings	131	2,552	170	2,947	1,896	2,821	2,407	100
Institutional buildings	0	650	13	100	0	1,100	0	0
Religious buildings	33	284	99	1,711	882	2,980	457	10
Garages, private residential	26	69	27	141	350	2,292	652	142
Industrial buildings	776	131	315	1,598	94	8,127	835	302
Public buildings	0	0	0	0	0	1,456	0	946
Public utilities buildings	0	200	0	1,820	14	8	27	0
All other nonresidential buildings	12	734	15	51	266	228	16	10
Additions, alterations, and repairs	920	3,472	649	3,382	915	4,849	1,601	744
	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction ¹	16,518	71,352	8,088	158,903	8,487	21,373	16,143	148,081
New dwelling units ²	11,615	51,193	6,037	116,836	4,312	14,031	9,883	103,399
New nonresidential building	3,371	15,238	1,478	29,634	3,382	4,365	4,616	33,415
Commercial buildings	1,219	4,430	639	8,627	850	2,442	2,886	18,247
Amusement buildings	53	25	130	155	10	219	2,400	378
Commercial garages	0	73	19	54	0	41	16	92
Gasoline and service stations	103	430	50	299	0	115	163	495
Office buildings	360	1,131	31	2,223	0	350	193	11,423
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	704	2,771	410	5,896	840	1,717	114	5,858
Community buildings	1,571	5,734	391	7,587	553	870	855	8,596
Educational buildings	1,522	4,049	391	6,283	263	623	855	6,074
Institutional buildings	0	204	0	407	0	0	0	97
Religious buildings	50	1,480	0	898	290	247	0	2,425
Garages, private residential	237	2,216	146	1,047	112	106	439	886
Industrial buildings	314	1,585	92	9,712	1,812	68	392	4,177
Public buildings	0	188	0	36	0	465	0	646
Public utilities buildings	9	888	0	25	22	86	20	370
All other nonresidential buildings	22	199	210	2,599	33	328	24	492
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,460	4,602	573	11,972	793	2,113	1,629	10,842
	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction ¹	7,310	10,585	8,943	6,751	16,113	49,337	15,251	37,879
New dwelling units ²	6,003	8,286	5,878	5,236	8,849	35,269	11,125	25,173
New nonresidential building	586	1,863	2,441	1,000	6,068	9,495	2,682	7,319
Commercial buildings	147	1,178	813	425	860	4,016	722	4,775
Amusement buildings	0	29	0	0	16	249	0	210
Commercial garages	5	102	618	0	8	53	0	24
Gasoline and service stations	41	140	101	200	70	216	64	38
Office buildings	64	602	0	120	294	1,283	16	1,148
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	37	306	94	105	473	2,215	642	3,355
Community buildings	333	467	466	437	3,299	2,934	782	1,827
Educational buildings	19	380	466	0	3,068	2,226	603	1,266
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	0	64	351	14	225
Religious buildings	315	87	0	437	167	358	165	336
Garages, private residential	64	28	168	68	142	140	75	61
Industrial buildings	3	129	852	29	180	926	659	25
Public buildings	0	0	0	0	1,316	802	65	572
Public utilities buildings	4	0	31	0	0	249	302	0
All other nonresidential buildings	34	62	112	41	271	427	77	60
Additions, alterations, and repairs	721	405	624	515	1,053	4,573	1,392	2,487

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ² Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

Table 20.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction ¹

Ownership and type of construction ²	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 5 months 1954-55	
	1954		1955 [*]						First 5 months		
	May	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1954	1955		
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	700.9	728.4	521.5	506.4	775.8	770.1	809.4	3,144.1	3,383.2	+ 8	
FEDERALLY OWNED	117.2	87.2	82.4	77.6	139.7	111.8	112.9	623.4	524.4	-16	
Residential building	(3)	0	0	8.3	0	.1	.8	3.4	9.2	+171	
Nonresidential building	70.6	33.4	44.8	29.6	98.3	69.4	61.2	401.5	303.3	-24	
Educational.....	1.6	.1	(3)	(3)	(3)	1.2	.2	8.3	1.4	-83	
Hospital and institutional	13.6	.4	6.8	.4	5.8	6.7	2.9	26.1	22.6	-13	
Administrative and general	2.3	1.4	3.8	2.0	4.4	3.3	4.6	12.2	18.1	+48	
Other nonresidential building	53.1	31.5	34.2	27.2	88.1	58.2	53.5	354.9	261.2	-26	
Airfield building	5.6	9.5	14.8	4.9	17.5	10.4	9.3	46.9	56.9	+21	
Industrial	20.4	10.9	6.8	10.5	47.3	15.7	15.7	220.5	96.0	-56	
Troop housing	8.5	3.2	3.7	.6	6.0	10.0	5.7	16.1	26.0	+61	
Warehouses.....	6.1	2.3	1.5	6.3	7.5	4.8	6.3	39.4	26.4	-33	
All other	12.5	5.6	7.4	4.9	9.8	17.3	16.5	32.0	55.9	+75	
Airfields	16.5	5.9	22.3	10.6	16.2	17.9	9.7	76.0	76.7	+ 1	
Conservation and development	16.9	19.2	6.0	20.8	11.9	12.4	26.0	64.6	77.1	+19	
Highway	3.2	6.7	2.8	2.9	6.0	5.2	4.4	18.4	21.3	+16	
Electric power utilities	3.9	15.6	1.3	3.1	4.3	3.2	5.6	32.4	17.5	-46	
All other federally owned.....	6.1	6.4	5.2	2.3	3.0	3.6	5.2	27.1	19.3	-29	
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	583.7	641.2	439.1	428.8	636.1	658.3	696.5	2,520.7	2,858.8	+13	
Residential building	18.5	9.8	7.9	16.6	16.5	14.5	27.2	91.7	82.7	-10	
Nonresidential building	243.7	246.7	224.3	183.9	260.7	246.6	251.7	1,097.6	1,167.2	+ 6	
Educational	195.4	172.8	132.1	137.6	206.0	199.7	186.2	801.9	861.6	+ 7	
Hospital and institutional.....	18.8	21.8	20.3	12.2	10.6	15.7	26.9	94.0	85.7	- 9	
Administrative and general	16.2	14.8	28.0	15.1	24.5	14.0	18.2	81.4	99.8	+23	
Other nonresidential building.....	13.3	37.3	43.9	19.0	19.6	17.2	20.4	120.3	120.1	(4)	
Highway	225.5	270.2	121.4	161.0	248.3	268.7	238.8	931.4	1,038.2	+11	
Sewerage systems	35.8	33.3	35.8	28.1	44.0	46.3	37.4	178.6	191.6	+ 7	
Water supply facilities	35.6	28.9	27.6	24.0	28.2	26.8	27.1	115.6	133.7	+16	
Utilities	11.5	42.4	12.7	8.2	29.0	43.8	102.3	63.7	196.0	+208	
Electric power	4.2	27.4	4.3	3.9	2.0	34.2	85.0	34.2	129.4	+278	
Other utilities	7.3	15.0	8.4	4.3	27.0	9.6	17.3	29.5	66.6	+126	
All other State and locally owned....	13.1	9.9	9.4	7.0	9.4	11.6	12.0	42.1	49.4	+17	

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. ² Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. ³ Less than \$50,000. ⁴ Change of less than 0.5 percent.

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility ¹

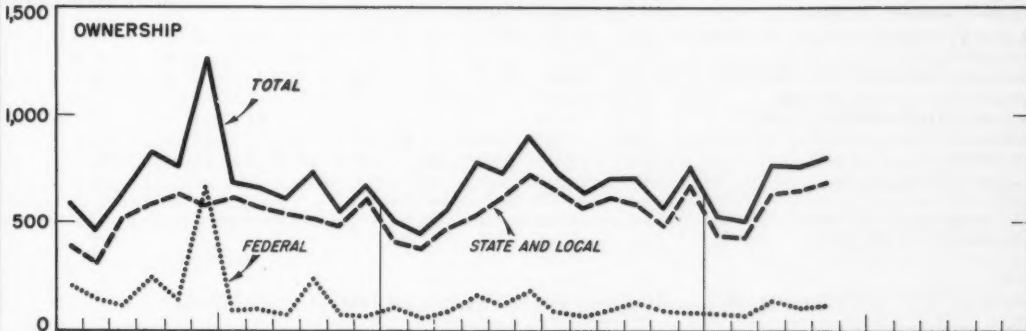
Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 5 months 1954-55
	1954		1955					First 5 months		
	May	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1954	1955	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	228.7	277.0	124.2	163.9	254.3	273.9	243.2	949.9	1,059.5	+12
FEDERALLY OWNED	3.2	6.7	2.8	2.9	6.0	5.2	4.4	18.4	21.3	+16
STATE OWNED	184.5	254.0	107.2	145.5	228.3	236.5	190.2	816.6	907.7	+11
Federally aided projects:										
Total value	109.1	141.7	50.5	79.3	83.5	112.1	99.6	412.7	425.0	+ 3
Federal funds	54.2	72.1	27.3	43.0	44.1	61.1	52.7	212.9	228.2	+ 7
Independent State projects:										
Total value	75.4	112.3	56.7	66.2	144.8	124.4	90.6	403.9	482.7	+20
Toll facilities	2.4	63.1	32.9	30.3	102.2	69.8	37.0	146.5	272.2	+86
LOCALLY OWNED ²	41.0	16.3	14.2	15.5	20.0	32.2	48.6	114.9	130.5	+14

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes force-account work started on Federal and State Projects. ² By municipalities and counties.

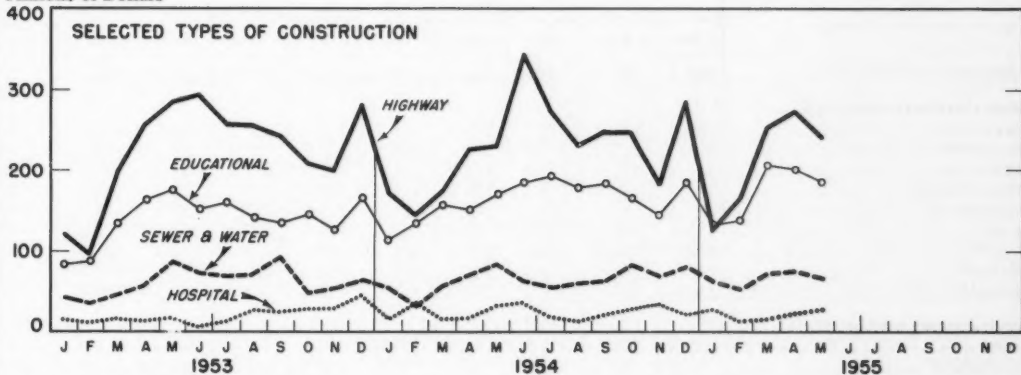
Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

Millions of Dollars



Millions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW G.D. 55-2-F

Table 22.--Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)			Percent change		
	June 1955	May 1955	First 6 months, 1955	June 1955 from		First 6 months, 1954-55
				May 1955	June 1954	
TOTAL	2,255	2,185	11,983	+ 3	+30	+30
Building construction	1,794	1,737	9,589	+ 3	+30	+30
Residential	951	1,011	5,457	- 6	+32	+37
Nonresidential	843	726	4,132	+16	+28	+21
Engineering	461	448	2,394	+ 3	+29	+29
Public works	382	290	1,709	+32	+33	+25
Utilities	79	158	685	-50	+14	+38

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Part V--Costs

Table 23.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, June 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	June	June	June	
American Appraisal Company	127.2	127.4	127.7	127.9	128.1	128.5	117.0	121.9	125.3	+ 3
Associated General Contractors	133.6	133.6	133.6	134.2	134.5	135.8	118.1	127.1	131.1	+ 4
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	121.5	121.5	121.9	122.6	123.3	124.2	119.4	121.5	120.0	+ 4
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	127.9	128.0	128.2	128.9	129.5	130.5	122.0	125.8	126.5	+ 3
Commercial and factory buildings	128.9	129.0	129.2	130.0	130.6	131.4	121.9	126.5	127.3	+ 3
Engineering News-Record (as of July 1):										
Building	135.9	135.9	136.2	136.8	137.5	138.3	122.6	128.7	131.3	+ 5
Construction	142.4	142.5	142.9	144.2	144.8	145.7	126.0	133.5	138.7	+ 5
Department of Commerce composite ¹	122.6	122.7	123.2	123.9	124.3	125.3	119.1	122.2	121.2	+ 3

Source: Department of Commerce. ¹ A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

Table 24.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, June 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	June	June	June	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS ¹	122.1	122.5	122.8	123.4	124.1	124.1	117.8	120.5	118.5	+ 5
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	120.0	121.4	121.6	122.9	124.2	124.6	120.1	120.7	115.5	+ 8
Douglas fir	126.5	127.2	127.0	128.5	130.5	131.9	128.1	118.8	116.7	+13
Southern pine	114.7	114.9	114.4	113.9	114.0	113.4	115.6	116.1	107.5	+ 6
Other softwoods	131.2	133.8	134.4	136.8	137.3	137.4	127.5	135.2	129.3	+ 6
Hardwoods	111.5	113.3	114.3	115.7	117.9	118.2	112.3	116.1	112.1	+ 5
Millwork	130.4	129.0	128.7	129.3	129.3	128.3	126.4	132.0	130.8	- 2
Plywood	104.7	104.8	104.8	104.8	105.6	105.6	105.7	112.4	99.7	+ 6
Softwood	110.4	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	112.3	115.4	100.9	+10
Hardwood	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9	102.6	102.6	101.1	110.3	98.8	+ 4
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	112.8	113.1	114.0	114.8	114.8	114.8	110.6	110.8	112.8	+ 2
Paint materials	95.8	96.1	95.9	96.2	97.0	96.9	98.6	95.0	96.8	(2)
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	146.2	146.2	146.2	146.2	146.2	146.2	128.4	133.8	141.3	+ 4
Hardware, finish	138.0	139.0	139.9	139.9	139.9	139.9	122.3	133.4	135.8	+ 3
Plumbing equipment	118.7	118.7	123.0	123.3	123.3	123.2	118.0	113.5	118.5	+ 4
Enameled iron fixtures	129.3	129.3	129.3	129.3	129.3	129.3	122.9	123.0	129.2	(2)
Vitreous china fixtures	111.7	111.7	117.1	117.3	117.3	117.3	123.0	103.2	111.7	+ 5
Brass fittings	117.1	117.1	123.4	123.4	123.4	123.4	112.6	112.6	116.5	+ 6
Heating equipment	113.9	113.7	113.6	113.6	113.5	113.5	113.5	114.6	113.8	(2)
Furnaces	120.6	120.2	119.8	119.8	119.8	119.8	116.7	117.8	120.6	- 1
Water heaters	107.7	107.7	107.7	107.4	107.4	107.4	113.2	111.7	107.6	(2)
Metal sash	132.5	132.5	132.5	133.2	133.2	133.2	117.7	119.3	127.3	+ 5
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	120.9	126.5	132.0	0
Glass, window	131.3	131.3	131.3	135.1	135.1	135.1	118.0	131.3	131.3	+ 3
Concrete ingredients	123.1	123.9	124.1	124.8	124.7	124.9	112.9	118.2	120.1	+ 4
Portland cement	129.9	129.9	130.1	131.5	131.5	131.6	116.4	123.8	124.9	+ 5
Concrete products	116.7	117.0	118.2	118.2	118.2	118.3	112.4	115.5	117.5	+ 1
Structural clay products	135.8	136.1	136.3	136.8	137.0	137.3	121.4	125.1	132.0	+ 4
Gypsum products	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	117.7	122.1	122.1	0
Asphalt roofing	106.1	100.4	98.8	98.5	105.8	106.7	106.0	106.2	94.2	+13
Insulation materials	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	105.1	107.3	110.1	- 3
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	127.6	129.4	129.7	129.7	129.7	129.7	115.8	123.0	127.9	+ 1
Kitchen cabinets, metal	128.2	128.2	128.2	128.2	128.2	128.2	125.2	127.2	127.6	+ 1

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes items not shown separately. ² Change of less than 0.5 percent.

Table 25.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		May	April	May
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	\$74.375	\$72.324	\$63.700
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	65.717	65.423	57.939
Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	74.260	73.288	63.194
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	81.129	81.313	74.291
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	77.702	77.256	70.268
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	78.490	77.200	70.160
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	190.990	180.893	166.950
Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32"x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	176.809	173.134	169.543
Poplar, plain No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	55.000	55.000	59.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	47.000	47.000	55.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	Each	4.829	4.829	4.377
Frame, door, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16"x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	Each	9.326	9.326	9.308
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	Each	1.656	1.656	1.653
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	80.807	80.807	74.733
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	70.660	70.660	62.394
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	54.000	54.000	53.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	Gallon	2.399	2.399	2.372
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.706	3.706	3.682
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.628	4.628	4.497
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	2.945	2.945	2.868
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.348	4.348	4.342
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.517	4.517	4.367
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.963	4.963	4.900
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	7.220	7.220	6.895
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	15.000	15.000	14.454
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	18.605	18.605	17.731
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	100 lb. keg	7.815	7.815	7.488
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	Ton	(111.3)	(111.3)	(105.5)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	Pound	\$0.377	\$0.377	(1)
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	Foot	.281	.281	(1)
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	M ft.	13.940	13.770	\$10.965
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	Linear ft. roll	24.540	24.380	24.220
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	53.841	53.841	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	12.858	12.858	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	23.242	23.242	21.778
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	16.634	16.634	16.057

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 25.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		May	April	May
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	\$183.142	\$186.618	\$184.880
Convactor, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Sq. ft., incl. enclosure	.433	.433	.432
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	247.732	247.732	256.572
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	157.008	157.008	170.059
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	62.070	62.070	56.967
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	101.958	101.958	104.245
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	38.350	38.350	(1)
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.156	1.156	1.126
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.390	1.396	1.376
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.585	1.585	1.547
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	Each	.174	.174	.181
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 4' lengths, delivered	Foot	3.938	3.938	3.685
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	28.750	28.654	28.151
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	37.717	37.717	36.807
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	Thousand	126.727	126.727	122.219
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	Foot	.486	.483	.450
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	24.010	24.010	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	31.850	31.850	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Ton	14.948	14.948	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Square	5.296	4.927	4.974
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	Ton	19.444	19.444	18.083
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Square	10.043	9.697	9.580

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Not available.

COST SAVINGS THROUGH STANDARDIZATION, SIMPLIFICATION, SPECIALIZATION IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

This report describes savings in materials and labor costs resulting from the standardization, simplification, and specialization methods used in the housing industry in the United States. Based on studies made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, and sponsored by the Foreign Operations Administration (now known as International Cooperation Administration), the report presents principles of advanced building practices in the United States which may be applied by builders in this country and abroad.

Chapter I of the bulletin reviews the historical background of reduction in variety and standardization practices, and discusses briefly the private and governmental organizations active in the field--their interests, responsibilities, and functions. Summaries are given about products for which variety has been reduced and standardization accomplished, such as lumber and wood products; stone, clay, and glass products; fabricated metal products; miscellaneous machinery (valves and fittings); and chemicals and allied products (paints and varnishes). Case studies on cost savings to manufacturers through standardization of wood doors and windows and plumbing items are also included in Chapter I.

Chapter II discusses the manner in which advanced building methods take advantage of the standardization of materials, and the manner in which specialization of operations fosters greater productivity in the building trades. Sixteen case studies made during 1952 are analyzed in terms of four basic approaches: (1) offsite fabrication of standardized components; (2) specialization of labor; (3) correlation of standardized elements in the house through modular coordination; and (4) design simplification through use of new or more economical construction materials and techniques.

Appendixes give industry standards for various materials and equipment, and a glossary of terms.

Copies of the report, Cost Savings Through Standardization, Simplification, Specialization in the Building Industry, may be obtained free of charge, while the supply lasts, by writing to the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

Table 26.--Indexes of Union Hourly Wage Rates in the Building Trades, By Trade

(1947-49 = 100)

Period	All trades	Bricklayers	Carpenters	Electricians	Painters	Plasterers	Plumbers	Building laborers
1950: July 1	110.7	111.6	110.1	111.5	109.6	113.0	107.8	112.4
1951: July 1	117.8	116.3	117.4	120.0	116.8	118.5	114.2	120.4
1952: July 1	125.1	126.2	124.6	126.8	124.4	125.3	121.0	128.6
1953: July 1	131.6	130.0	131.1	132.0	130.5	130.1	125.4	138.4
1954: July 1	136.4	134.2	135.3	135.9	134.5	132.5	132.3	144.4
Oct. 1	*138.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1955: Jan. 1	*138.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Apr. 1	*138.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
July 1	141.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

Source: Department of Labor. * Estimated. ¹ Not available.

Table 27.--Union Wage Scales in the Building Trades: Average Rate and Range in Rates, by Trade, and Average Rate by City

(As of July 1, 1955)

City	Bricklayers	Carpenters	Electricians	Painters	Plasterers	Plumbers	Building laborers
ALL PLACES:							
Estimated average rate	\$3.47	\$3.01	\$3.17	\$2.87	\$3.36	\$3.19	\$2.04
Range in rate levels	\$2.50-3.85	\$2.18-3.55	\$2.60-3.65	\$1.75-3.25	\$2.25-3.85	\$2.63-3.50	\$0.90-2.80
Cents-per-hour increase, Apr. 1, 1955-July 1, 1955....	4.5	6.9	3.4	6.1	5.9	3.9	6.0
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	3.500	2.700	*3.100	2.500	3.000	*2.975	1.750
Atlanta, Ga.	3.100	2.600	3.000	2.600	*2.875	3.050	1.330
Baltimore, Md.	3.200	2.750	*3.075	*2.525	3.000	3.000	1.600
Birmingham, Ala.	3.250	2.500	3.000	*2.600	2.720	3.050	1.375
Boston, Mass.	3.250	2.850	3.000	*2.600	*3.250	3.050	2.150
Buffalo, N. Y.	*3.445	*3.110	*3.300	*2.875	*3.365	3.150	¹ 2.300
Butte, Mont.	3.125	*2.725	3.000	2.600	3.000	3.050	1.925
Charleston, S. C.	2.500	2.250	2.750	2.000	2.600	2.750	1.150
Charleston, W. Va.	*3.400	2.925	3.000	2.500	3.000	*3.050	1.850
Charlotte, N. C.	2.850	2.175	2.600	1.750	2.250	2.625	1.175
Chattanooga, Tenn.	*3.225	*2.700	3.000	*2.450	3.000	3.000	*1.550
Chicago, Ill.	3.475	3.200	3.330	3.125	3.400	*3.200	2.425
Cincinnati, Ohio	*3.400	*3.150	3.250	2.800	*3.225	*3.275	*2.200
Cleveland, Ohio	*3.450	*3.400	¹ 3.325	*3.075	*3.400	*3.300	*2.650
Columbus, Ohio	3.400	*2.850	*3.180	2.600	*3.000	*3.150	*2.000
Dallas, Tex.	*3.625	2.750	3.000	*2.750	3.438	3.000	*1.500
Dayton, Ohio	*3.470	*2.950	*3.340	*2.820	*3.120	*3.250	*2.130
Denver, Colo.	3.500	2.850	3.000	2.600	*3.375	3.050	*1.925
Des Moines, Iowa	*3.650	*2.900	*3.050	*2.625	*3.000	*3.200	*2.150
Detroit, Mich.	*3.380	*3.100	*3.350	*2.975	*3.360	3.125	*2.400
Duluth, Minn.	*3.150	2.600	2.900	*2.500	3.000	*2.875	*1.950
El Paso, Tex.	*3.250	*2.650	3.000	*2.200	*3.000	3.000	*1.450
Erie, Pa.	*3.450	*3.000	3.050	*2.550	3.000	3.000	*2.175
Grand Rapids, Mich.	*3.350	*2.775	*3.100	*2.500	*3.100	*3.250	*2.050
Houston, Tex.	3.425	2.850	3.125	2.625	3.250	3.100	1.600
Indianapolis, Ind.	*3.450	*3.100	*3.200	*2.800	3.100	*3.200	*2.150
Jackson, Miss.	3.000	*2.425	2.750	*2.250	2.625	2.900	*1.200
Jacksonville, Fla.	*3.050	*2.550	3.100	*2.325	2.800	*3.100	.900
Kansas City, Mo.	3.625	*2.850	3.050	*2.800	3.325	3.150	*2.105
Knoxville, Tenn.	*3.200	2.500	*2.920	*2.400	2.875	*3.000	*1.550

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 27.—Union Wage Scales in the Building Trades: Average Rate and Range in Rates, by Trade, and Average Rate by City—Continued

City	Bricklayers	Carpenters	Electricians	Painters	Plasterers	Plumbers	Building laborers
Little Rock, Ark.	*\$3. 400	*\$2. 500	\$2. 875	\$2. 250	\$2. 940	\$3. 000	\$1. 100
Los Angeles, Calif.	*3. 600	*2. 860	*3. 250	*2. 900	*3. 563	3. 250	*2. 160
Louisville, Ky.	*3. 400	3. 000	*3. 150	2. 650	*3. 210	3. 075	2. 000
Madison, Wis.	3. 150	2. 700	*3. 060	*2. 600	*3. 070	3. 025	2. 200
Manchester, N. H.	*3. 250	*2. 575	*2. 625	*2. 150	*3. 250	*2. 775	*2. 000
Memphis, Tenn.	3. 300	*2. 475	3. 000	*2. 438	3. 000	3. 000	*1. 325
Miami, Fla.	3. 175	2. 820	3. 050	2. 520	3. 175	3. 075	1. 350
Milwaukee, Wis.	*3. 250	*2. 990	3. 000	*2. 600	*3. 050	*3. 050	*2. 225
Minneapolis, Minn.	*3. 325	*2. 900	3. 000	*2. 750	3. 000	3. 000	*2. 150
Mobile, Ala.	3. 250	2. 560	2. 925	2. 350	2. 900	3. 050	1. 560
Nashville, Tenn.	3. 150	2. 425	2. 850	*2. 350	2. 750	2. 925	1. 200
Newark, N. J.	3. 850	3. 500	*3. 650	3. 250	3. 850	3. 500	2. 800
New Haven, Conn.	3. 250	2. 750	3. 050	2. 750	3. 250	3. 100	*2. 200
New Orleans, La.	*3. 175	*2. 600	*3. 025	2. 275	*2. 800	*3. 000	*1. 475
New York, N. Y.	3. 800	*3. 550	3. 300	3. 050	*3. 850	3. 500	*2. 700
Norfolk, Va.	3. 250	2. 200	*2. 900	*2. 260	2. 925	2. 750	1. 250
Oakland, Calif.	3. 550	*2. 900	*3. 125	*2. 920	3. 540	3. 300	*2. 175
Oklahoma City, Okla.	3. 500	2. 625	*3. 125	2. 450	3. 300	*3. 050	1. 700
Omaha, Nebr.	*3. 225	*2. 755	*3. 150	*2. 400	3. 100	*3. 050	1. 900
Peoria, Ill.	*3. 450	*3. 060	*3. 200	*2. 775	*3. 345	*3. 200	*2. 375
Philadelphia, Pa.	3. 750	*3. 300	3. 650	*2. 700	3. 500	3. 500	*2. 025
Phoenix, Ariz.	3. 500	*2. 750	3. 000	*2. 650	3. 300	2. 950	*2. 075
Pittsburgh, Pa.	3. 550	*3. 200	3. 500	2. 850	3. 300	*3. 375	*2. 100
Portland, Maine	3. 050	*2. 375	*2. 600	1. 800	2. 900	*2. 775	*1. 850
Portland, Oreg.	*3. 400	*2. 750	2. 950	2. 550	3. 150	3. 050	2. 230
Providence, R. I.	3. 225	*2. 625	2. 750	*2. 360	*3. 175	*2. 900	*1. 975
Reading, Pa.	3. 200	*2. 785	3. 000	*2. 400	3. 075	*3. 000	*1. 850
Richmond, Va.	3. 000	2. 250	*2. 750	*2. 150	*2. 850	2. 750	1. 250
Rochester, N. Y.	*3. 335	*3. 100	*3. 200	*2. 890	*3. 335	*3. 050	*2. 340
Rock Island (Ill.) District 2	3. 275	2. 800	3. 000	*2. 750	3. 000	3. 000	2. 135
St. Louis, Mo.	3. 450	*3. 150	3. 250	2. 950	3. 175	3. 200	*2. 200
St. Paul, Minn.	*3. 325	*2. 900	3. 000	*2. 750	*3. 050	3. 000	*2. 150
Salt Lake City, Utah	*3. 125	*2. 600	2. 875	2. 500	3. 125	*2. 850	*1. 875
San Antonio, Tex.	3. 250	2. 500	2. 875	2. 375	3. 175	2. 900	1. 300
San Diego, Calif.	*3. 500	*2. 835	3. 100	*2. 820	*3. 500	3. 250	*2. 160
San Francisco, Calif.	3. 650	*2. 910	*3. 150	*2. 920	3. 463	*3. 200	*2. 175
Sante Fe, N. Mex.	3. 750	2. 700	3. 000	2. 375	3. 000	2. 925	1. 750
Savannah, Ga.	2. 850	2. 400	2. 850	2. 250	2. 750	2. 950	1. 200
Schenectady, N. Y.	3. 250	*2. 925	3. 150	*2. 500	3. 250	*3. 050	2. 100
Scranton, Pa.	3. 125	2. 675	*3. 000	2. 375	3. 000	2. 930	1. 950
Seattle, Wash.	3. 300	2. 660	3. 000	2. 630	3. 150	*3. 100	2. 250
South Bend, Ind.	3. 500	2. 800	*2. 960	2. 600	3. 025	*2. 960	2. 090
Spokane, Wash.	*3. 370	2. 750	*3. 000	2. 630	*3. 175	*3. 100	2. 150
Springfield, Mass.	*3. 125	*2. 775	*3. 050	*2. 550	*3. 125	*3. 000	*1. 925
Syracuse, N. Y.	*3. 350	*2. 920	*3. 300	*2. 600	3. 100	*3. 080	*2. 150
Tampa, Fla.	2. 950	2. 400	3. 000	2. 175	2. 950	2. 750	1. 175
Toledo, Ohio	*3. 385	*3. 175	*3. 275	*2. 895	*3. 275	*3. 275	*2. 395
Tulsa, Okla.	3. 500	2. 775	3. 125	*2. 750	3. 250	*3. 135	1. 750
Washington, D. C.	3. 500	*3. 125	3. 400	*2. 950	3. 450	3. 260	*2. 000
Wichita, Kans.	3. 500	2. 713	3. 100	2. 375	3. 000	3. 060	1. 863
Worcester, Mass.	*3. 150	*2. 780	*2. 950	*2. 500	*3. 150	2. 850	*2. 130
York, Pa.	3. 050	*2. 450	*3. 000	*2. 150	2. 750	*2. 750	*1. 725
Youngstown, Ohio	*3. 450	*3. 125	*3. 225	*2. 850	*3. 200	3. 125	*2. 275

Source: Department of Labor.
of rate reported for previous quarter.* Represents an increase in rates between April 1, 1955 and July 1, 1955.
2 Includes Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa.

1 Indicates correction

Lum
Mill
Pair
la
Port
Asph
Heat
eq
Iron
ClayGyps
Plum
Sourc
show1947.
1948.
1949.
1950.
1951.
1952.
1953.
1954.
1955.
Sourc
revis

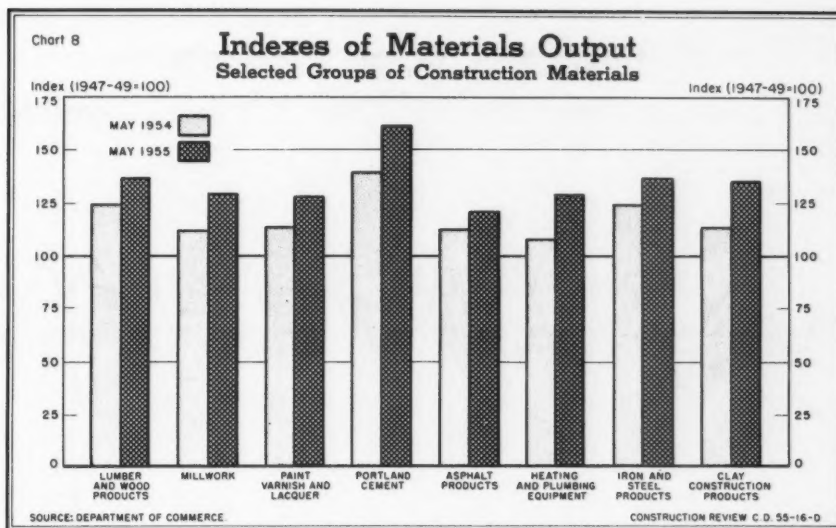


Table 23.--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes													
	1954								1955					
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	
Lumber and wood products...	124.5	117.9	93.9	107.6	126.6	133.5	127.5	124.9	117.7	116.7	136.4	129.9	136.6	
Millwork	111.8	119.8	91.3	122.0	144.5	143.5	131.8	134.8	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7	
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	113.3	123.6	111.9	111.5	104.9	93.4	86.9	75.6	94.3	86.6	114.1	117.3	127.3	
Portland cement	139.3	136.4	152.4	153.7	152.7	154.9	142.5	133.3	121.0	105.4	134.0	148.6	161.9	
Asphalt products	112.6	133.8	109.3	123.2	143.5	122.0	104.6	68.0	71.6	79.8	125.3	125.1	121.1	
Heating and plumbing equipment	108.0	122.6	111.0	145.3	155.8	158.8	127.6	112.5	115.9	114.9	141.2	129.5	128.5	
Iron and steel products	124.5	138.1	121.4	126.9	124.3	121.3	105.6	97.6	104.5	104.5	130.1	133.5	136.0	
Clay construction products..	113.8	122.4	117.6	125.1	126.6	123.3	123.7	120.6	112.8	108.1	132.2	126.0	135.0	
Quarterly Indexes														
	1953			1954				1955						
	Fourth quarter			First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Fourth quarter		First quarter		
Gypsum products	140.7			132.8		152.3		158.9		162.2		168.9		
Plumbing fixtures	99.3			102.7		100.9		101.4		123.1		132.9		

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following. ¹ Partly estimated.

Table 28-A.--Millwork Products: Revised Indexes of Production ¹

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Year	Annual average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1947	92.8	87.6	77.5	86.0	94.1	96.2	94.4	77.7	96.8	88.1	112.3	100.9	101.9
1948	109.4	112.7	107.2	122.8	120.7	108.6	104.9	85.8	115.0	116.1	108.3	101.4	109.6
1949	97.8	94.1	93.8	106.1	92.9	87.2	96.3	73.4	102.7	99.0	102.1	110.7	115.7
1950	126.5	113.1	116.4	139.0	132.9	135.8	133.9	100.5	144.7	123.7	134.7	129.7	113.7
1951	100.7	125.9	114.5	132.2	120.3	121.2	102.5	71.6	91.5	79.7	97.7	79.9	71.2
1952	103.8	81.1	87.9	98.1	102.4	99.7	108.2	100.7	111.0	118.2	125.4	100.8	112.5
1953	106.5	115.4	117.0	122.7	114.0	113.8	108.0	97.3	107.3	104.4	100.7	86.0	91.3
1954	116.8	90.5	93.9	112.3	105.8	111.8	119.8	91.3	122.0	144.5	143.5	131.8	134.8
1955	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7								

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association. ¹ These revised indexes replace data published in previous issues of Construction Review, and are based on expanded coverage.

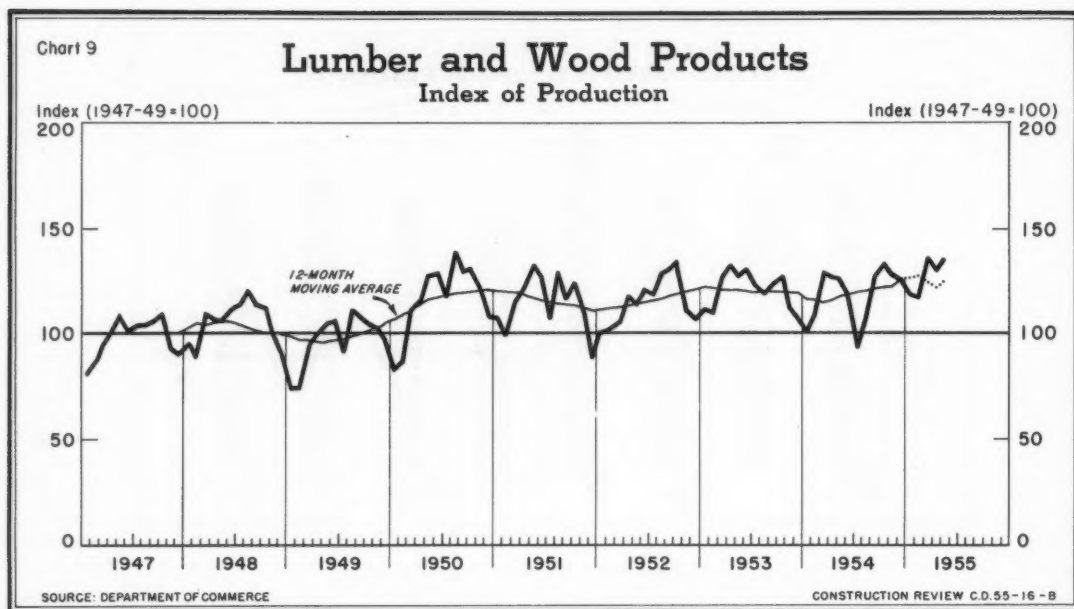


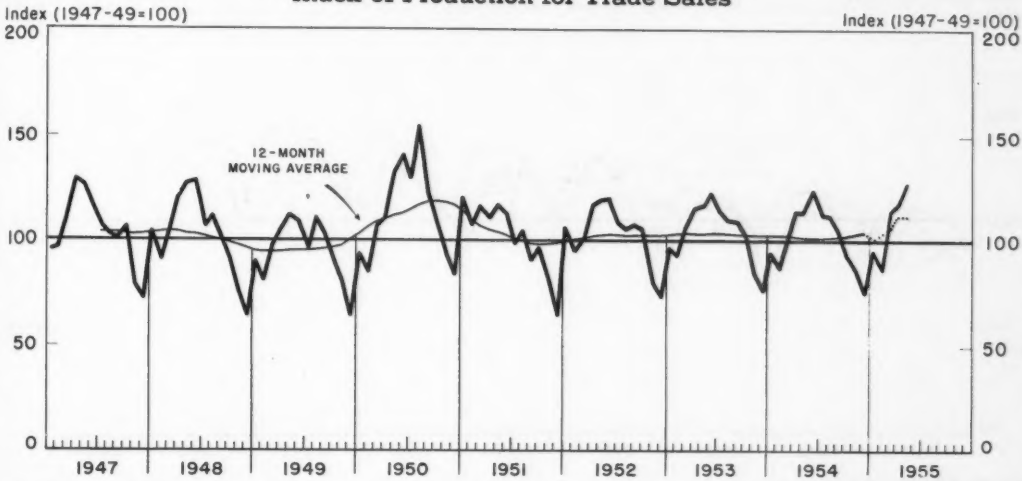
Table 29.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (Million board feet)			Hardwood flooring (Thousand board feet)			Douglas fir plywood (Million square feet)	Insulating boards (Tons)	Hardboard (Tons)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production		
1947-49 average.....	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1952.....	30,477	30,578	4,980	1,004,117	1,001,672	86,938	3,051	879,655	396,219
1953.....	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	952,562	423,428
1954.....	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,015,813	493,258
12 months ending:									
February 1955.....	29,699	30,258	--	1,175,869	1,176,634	--	3,985	1,059,914	507,101
March 1955.....	29,816	30,399	--	1,191,903	1,193,971	--	4,052	1,075,023	509,870
April 1955.....	29,850	30,443	--	1,202,184	1,207,255	--	4,110	1,081,108	510,133
May 1955.....	30,012	30,671	--	1,221,281	1,226,604	--	4,190	1,083,748	514,840
1954: May.....	2,640	2,599	5,724	90,449	90,438	71,440	329	89,520	42,042
June.....	2,459	2,699	5,484	96,554	100,063	66,986	280	89,877	42,879
July.....	2,025	2,256	5,253	94,037	98,340	62,583	142	85,910	40,890
August.....	2,317	2,411	5,161	101,799	104,247	59,768	207	89,862	41,791
September.....	2,650	2,656	5,153	104,340	104,572	56,859	332	88,860	42,409
October.....	2,715	2,693	5,175	104,788	105,116	56,456	393	96,961	43,268
November.....	2,553	2,473	5,254	102,146	98,488	59,874	395	89,164	43,744
December.....	2,499	2,479	5,275	102,284	92,910	68,425	393	84,239	38,535
1955: January.....	2,309	2,311	5,238	97,476	98,885	64,016	393	94,753	43,641
February.....	2,320	2,293	5,284	93,925	94,946	62,945	389	86,784	39,722
March.....	2,734	2,819	5,205	110,093	111,090	61,076	444	97,328	46,368
April.....	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,844
May.....	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,749
Percent change									
May, 1954-55.....	+6	+9	-11	+21	+21	-23	+24	+3	+11
First 5 mos., 1954-55.....	+6	+7	--	+17	+20	--	+22	+17	+11

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census.

Chart 10

Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Index of Production for Trade Sales



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D.55-16-H

Table 30.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (Thousands of units)					Production for trade sales (Thousands of gallons)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1952	5,288	2,417	4,373	10,514	4,543	274,992
1953	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	276,326
1954	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	271,235
12 months ending:						
February 1955	3,612	2,336	6,342	11,809	6,102	271,043
March 1955	3,642	2,370	6,547	12,212	6,329	273,425
April 1955	3,599	2,376	6,769	12,415	6,497	274,297
May 1955	3,556	2,396	6,835	12,624	6,655	277,399
1954: May	297	162	488	841	448	25,183
June	265	199	499	967	541	27,642
July	85	127	447	716	399	24,874
August	71	220	608	919	498	24,777
September	342	235	593	1,247	634	23,309
October	346	229	591	1,227	629	20,752
November	377	191	553	1,128	518	19,320
December	383	209	560	1,124	537	16,775
1955: January	362	196	562	1,017	527	20,969
February	355	184	565	1,061	522	19,254
March	415	236	657	1,181	653	25,370
April	301	187	646	987	591	26,072
May	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,285
	Percent change					
May, 1954-55	-14	+12	+14	+25	+35	+12
First 5 mos., 1954-55	+2	+13	+43	+42	+42	+5

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

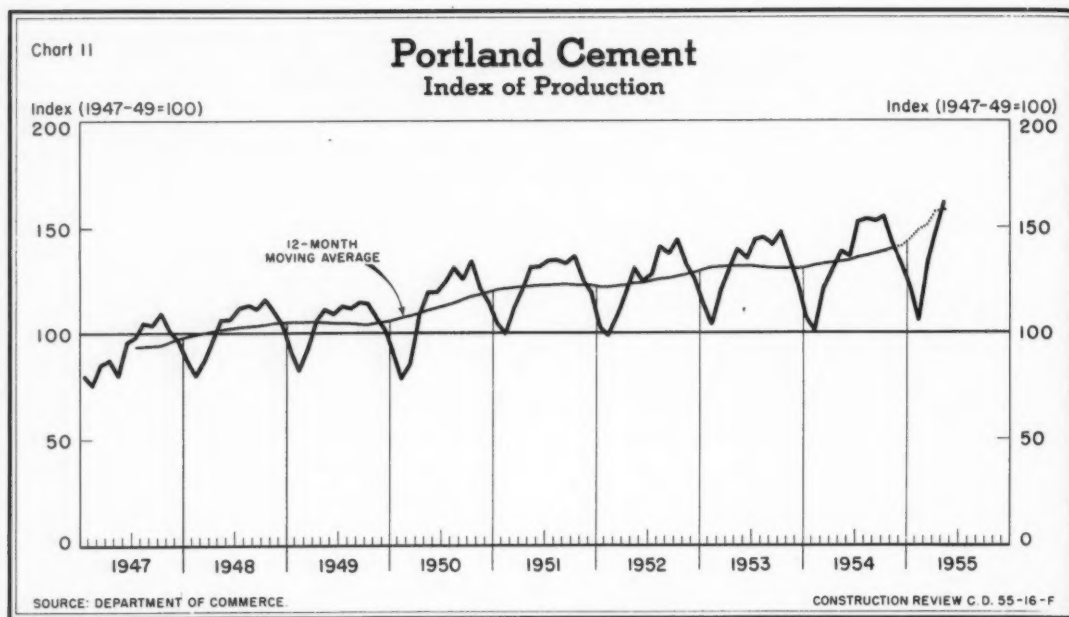


Table 31.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Pro- duction	Ship- ments	Stocks	Shipments (Thousands of squares)				Shipments (Million square feet)	
	(Thousands of barrels)			Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Gypsum board ¹	Gypsum lath ¹
	Portland cement								
1947-49 average.....	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1952.....	249,091	251,137	15,964	57,938	1,858	2,718	23,577	3,457	2,315
1953.....	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954.....	271,277	274,096	16,722	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
12 months ending:									
February 1955.....	274,456	275,302	--	59,691	1,428	2,272	28,619		
March 1955.....	276,768	279,492	--	61,400	1,437	2,255	30,518	4,456	2,649
April 1955.....	279,885	281,198	--	62,576	1,422	2,210	31,533		
May 1955.....	283,672	285,459	--	63,171	1,398	2,211	31,574		
1954: May.....	23,279	24,911	25,412	5,374	114	219	2,537		
June.....	22,802	28,632	19,674	6,484	151	231	2,985	1,052	635
July.....	25,482	27,702	17,524	5,251	115	233	2,330		
August.....	25,698	28,887	14,408	6,029	147	260	2,460	1,079	689
September.....	25,522	29,032	10,907	7,062	153	256	3,036		
October.....	25,887	27,134	9,667	6,088	144	221	2,436		
November.....	23,826	22,766	10,732	5,108	125	159	2,360	1,144	642
December.....	22,290	16,347	16,722	3,094	86	97	1,852		
1955: January.....	20,231	13,520	23,434	3,190	85	93	2,091		
February.....	17,612	14,031	27,018	3,264	79	108	2,711	1,181	683
March.....	22,409	22,941	26,486	5,533	125	161	3,758		
April.....	24,847	25,295	26,039	6,099	98	172	2,977		
May.....	27,066	29,172	23,610	5,969	90	220	2,578		
	Percent change								
May, 1954-55.....	+16	+17	-7	+11	-19	(2)	+2	--	--
First 5 mos., 1954-55.....	+12	+12	--	+23	-9	-10	+27	--	--

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census.

¹ Data reported on quarterly basis.

² Change of less than 0.5 percent.

Table 32--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

State	1955			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	February	March	April	1952	1953	1954	February 1955	March 1955	April 1955
Alabama	251	380	305	3,883	4,260	3,943	3,908	3,956	3,948
Arizona	209	267	226	2,119	2,433	2,215	2,211	2,264	2,260
Arkansas	195	329	257	1,940	1,762	1,894	2,133	2,333	2,454
California	2,239	2,912	2,737	25,367	27,737	28,528	29,012	29,799	30,015
Colorado	112	261	332	2,826	2,941	3,285	3,230	3,287	3,307
Connecticut	130	269	314	2,977	3,194	3,258	3,256	3,257	3,273
Delaware	36	75	76	861	902	910	913	942	959
District of Columbia	65	116	135	1,156	1,249	1,324	1,321	1,341	1,356
Florida	767	857	757	6,680	7,487	8,354	8,638	8,821	8,902
Georgia	321	469	427	4,161	4,644	4,441	4,399	4,481	4,524
Idaho	22	71	88	1,116	986	1,215	1,189	1,193	1,189
Illinois	516	952	1,304	13,327	13,439	14,973	14,882	15,013	15,139
Indiana	239	528	702	6,207	6,568	6,724	6,630	6,753	6,867
Iowa	73	346	362	4,890	4,941	5,863	5,822	5,955	5,877
Kansas	214	564	845	5,939	5,801	6,576	6,457	6,614	6,816
Kentucky	126	228	277	3,621	3,354	3,026	2,972	2,959	2,931
Louisiana	413	619	555	5,869	5,728	6,292	6,294	6,410	6,428
Maine	20	94	92	692	894	857	861	921	948
Maryland	201	373	459	4,363	4,676	4,447	4,416	4,456	4,489
Massachusetts	187	395	459	4,347	4,351	4,180	4,234	4,273	4,328
Michigan	455	720	1,185	11,255	12,716	13,076	13,237	13,391	13,561
Minnesota	136	406	478	4,748	4,968	5,500	5,554	5,751	5,816
Mississippi	113	186	144	1,705	1,696	1,732	1,729	1,763	1,750
Missouri	306	637	749	6,319	6,796	7,556	7,434	7,553	7,581
Montana	22	31	66	1,358	949	1,019	1,015	989	981
Nebraska	82	217	294	2,629	3,384	3,724	3,715	3,745	3,701
Nevada	54	65	73	625	618	842	820	812	789
New Hampshire	21	47	80	451	549	827	834	844	866
New Jersey	404	755	823	8,084	8,581	9,164	9,045	8,991	8,991
New Mexico	152	180	186	1,645	1,860	2,111	2,175	2,212	2,169
New York	687	1,355	1,655	16,905	19,134	20,290	20,137	20,134	20,150
North Carolina	275	386	404	3,896	3,715	4,009	4,027	4,106	4,081
North Dakota	17	68	151	1,062	1,148	1,161	1,161	1,183	1,262
Ohio	496	999	1,341	13,021	14,286	16,003	15,777	15,927	16,077
Oklahoma	312	455	494	4,677	4,158	4,364	4,285	4,337	4,411
Oregon	138	182	147	2,902	2,445	2,081	2,153	2,164	2,132
Pennsylvania	556	1,112	1,311	15,055	15,234	15,108	15,045	15,196	15,182
Rhode Island	22	71	68	1,015	857	685	672	677	668
South Carolina	144	189	202	2,961	2,217	1,993	1,946	1,950	1,952
South Dakota	21	77	89	1,113	1,246	1,116	1,106	1,143	1,148
Tennessee	245	380	390	4,702	4,856	4,683	4,662	4,693	4,551
Texas	1,502	2,027	1,745	17,249	16,158	19,081	19,540	19,921	20,168
Utah	35	111	172	1,343	1,343	1,508	1,492	1,511	1,539
Vermont	4	16	22	321	300	242	241	244	241
Virginia	276	403	422	4,652	4,701	4,474	4,464	4,505	4,513
Washington	345	435	539	4,954	5,413	5,684	6,009	5,939	5,885
West Virginia	61	134	134	1,791	1,921	2,379	2,324	2,330	2,264
Wisconsin	175	324	473	5,673	6,127	5,840	5,914	5,992	6,043
Wyoming	15	29	47	561	538	585	565	567	561

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

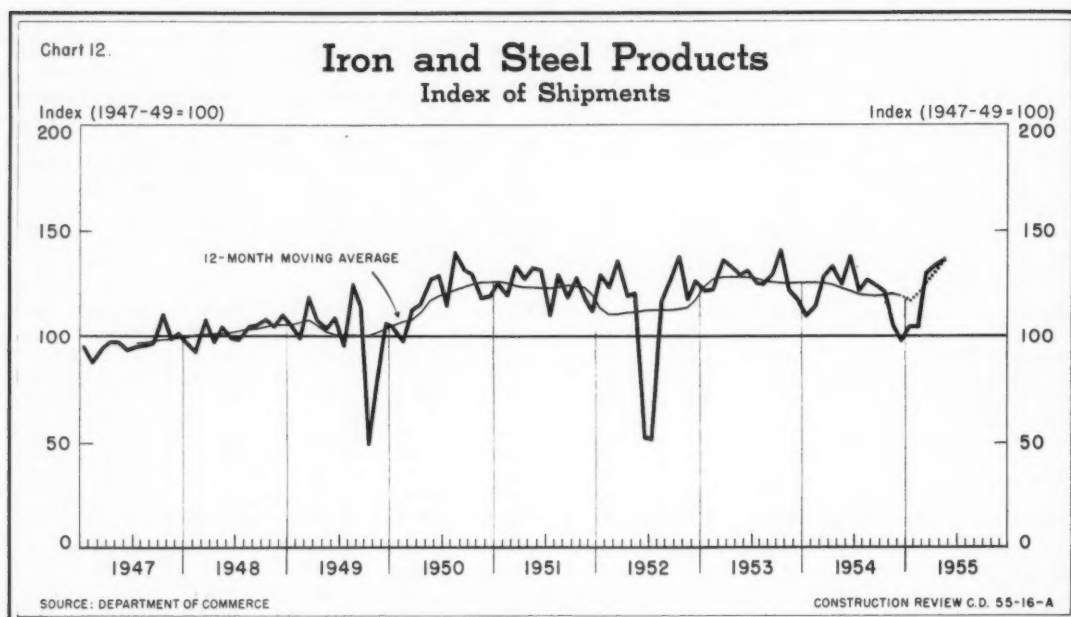


Table 33.—Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Shipments	Bookings	Backlog ¹
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe		Rigid steel conduit			
							Pressure	Soil				
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1952.....	2,882	1,813	1,961	651	235	1,454	1,312	651	225	2,664	2,504	1,033
1953.....	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954.....	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	228	3,136	2,510	743
12 months ending:												
February 1955	2,429	1,771	2,437	588	377	1,040	1,388	773	241	3,063	2,540	--
March 1955	2,418	1,807	2,496	598	369	996	1,405	794	248	3,019	2,631	--
April 1955.....	2,387	1,845	2,533	608	360	992	1,435	804	251	2,967	2,716	--
May 1955.....	2,395	1,897	2,567	620	368	1,031	1,481	814	*254	2,936	2,821	--
1954: May	257	163	202	51	32	82	123	65	17	254	199	909
June	275	211	200	55	35	108	131	67	21	290	219	848
July	212	168	214	47	26	80	98	59	23	265	263	872
August	232	152	207	53	40	71	127	68	23	272	193	822
September	225	151	210	55	26	63	124	71	22	265	207	797
October	203	150	209	49	38	59	130	68	22	258	212	763
November	132	138	197	43	31	49	118	65	23	230	195	730
December	92	123	206	32	28	40	111	55	20	224	197	743
1955: January	119	116	211	49	21	97	101	61	19	226	241	781
February	135	128	199	51	27	103	95	67	20	213	234	802
March	254	161	239	61	29	122	130	83	23	228	285	877
April	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	*20	223	304	938
Percent change												
May, 1954-55	+ 4	+32	+17	+22	+24	+48	+37	+14	+15	-12	+53	+3
First 5 mos., 1954-55	-16	+22	+22	+23	-12	-23	+20	+24	+35	-15	+31	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. *Estimated.

¹ Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

39

Table 34.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (Million brick)		Structural clay tile (Thousand tons)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (Thousand tons)		Hollow facing tile (Million brick equivalent)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (Thousand square feet)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 Average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1952	5,889	5,642	977	994	1,649	1,548	413	389	132,085	123,267
1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
12 months ending:										
February 1955	6,313	6,259	944	900	1,726	1,660	457	445	146,865	145,253
March 1955	6,403	6,367	935	890	1,744	1,680	460	448	150,064	149,501
April 1955	6,458	6,440	917	879	1,749	1,684	452	439	152,601	152,490
May 1955	6,549	6,564	902	870	1,769	1,722	453	441	156,659	157,254
1954: May	523	528	83	81	137	140	33	32	11,019	10,727
June	554	588	87	84	151	150	41	40	11,490	11,609
July	538	574	84	79	135	153	40	38	11,446	11,765
August	583	587	84	81	149	162	40	40	11,610	12,368
September	576	589	81	77	156	158	38	38	12,399	12,756
October	561	571	81	79	148	153	37	38	12,308	12,272
November	557	549	80	72	149	140	40	38	12,477	12,222
December	519	464	69	64	151	122	42	39	12,880	12,358
1955: January	468	412	66	64	132	101	36	33	13,973	13,258
February	446	405	65	60	134	109	33	33	13,111	12,528
March	563	568	72	69	163	149	40	39	15,338	15,807
April	569	605	65	70	143	147	32	31	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	34	34	15,077	15,491
Percent change										
May, 1954-55	+18	+24	-19	-11	+15	+27	+6	+8	+37	+44
First 5 mos., 1954-55	+18	+20	-13	-7	+10	+14	-2	-1	+28	+33

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 35.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region ¹

Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	May 1955		First 5 months 1955		May 1955		First 5 months 1955	
	Quantity	Percent change from May 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55	Quantity	Percent change from May 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55
Brick, common and face (thousands)								
U. S. TOTAL	613,871	+17	2,660,030	+17	652,091	+24	2,642,980	+20
New England	10,118	-20	43,469	+12	10,296	+2	39,888	+6
Middle Atlantic	97,592	-1	404,855	-2	110,924	+17	397,600	+8
East North Central	144,128	+15	611,437	+12	149,454	+18	589,625	+15
West North Central	30,919	+29	137,357	+33	31,796	+21	124,019	+26
South Atlantic	150,750	+24	670,197	+21	166,745	+33	689,892	+27
East South Central	56,583	+22	251,770	+21	61,339	+33	254,299	+24
West South Central	70,337	+21	329,617	+26	68,869	+25	316,207	+27
Mountain	19,833	+26	93,513	+30	19,854	+16	91,241	+23
Pacific	33,611	+64	117,815	+68	32,814	+24	140,209	+28
Structural clay tile (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	67,600	-19	336,481	-13	72,353	-11	334,816	-7
Middle Atlantic	7,202	+3	32,965	(2)	8,037	+22	34,595	+14
East North Central	10,364	+3	51,652	+10	12,880	+13	54,370	+8
West North Central	8,657	-45	43,378	-31	10,362	-27	41,438	-26
South Atlantic	12,253	-21	61,781	-22	13,364	-1	67,979	(2)
East South Central	4,109	-45	30,211	-21	4,752	-38	31,637	-6
West South Central	22,709	-9	107,238	-4	21,447	-14	96,305	-12
Mountain & Pacific	2,306	-7	9,256	-42	1,511	-50	8,492	-32
Vitrified clay sewer pipe (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	156,551	+15	729,048	+10	177,604	+27	682,859	+14
Middle Atlantic	16,805	+8	76,820	-1	16,467	+18	64,812	+11
East North Central	66,262	+25	284,375	+10	76,773	+40	267,135	+13
West North Central	14,684	-11	81,150	+6	18,099	+8	75,697	+4
South Atlantic	13,561	+28	58,545	+26	14,576	+34	58,825	+27
E. & W. South Central	19,917	-1	101,000	+5	21,091	+17	92,944	+11
Mountain	2,786	-23	16,967	-3	3,399	-16	15,668	-7
Pacific	22,536	+32	110,191	+23	27,199	+29	107,778	+31

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Composition of regions and nonfarm population distribution, by region, are shown under table 2. ² Change of less than 0.5 percent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 36--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners ¹ (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1952	1,996	74	36,898	3,859	928	106	548	59	505
1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
12 months ending:									
February 1955	2,319	--	28,094	--	1,183	--	567	--	516
March 1955	2,384	--	28,781	--	1,201	--	576	--	524
April 1955	2,419	--	28,531	--	1,221	--	582	--	531
May 1955	2,444	--	28,518	--	1,237	--	587	--	539
1954: May	192	83	1,745	7,696	82	170	34	98	33
June	203	102	2,208	7,903	95	172	41	95	45
July	187	85	1,937	7,438	92	166	41	91	40
August	203	90	3,315	6,765	130	153	58	92	56
September	201	87	3,217	6,478	148	133	68	75	62
October	198	91	3,354	5,915	138	122	76	63	69
November	176	95	2,700	5,400	108	121	60	59	42
December	163	103	1,956	5,434	81	130	45	74	29
1955: January	200	97	1,675	5,876	85	137	39	76	39
February	215	94	1,970	6,106	80	145	38	81	39
March	249	103	2,419	6,416	87	176	41	81	39
April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	98	198	39	83	41
Percent change									
May, 1954-55	+13	+48	-1	+3	+19	+16	+15	-15	+24
First 5 mos., 1954-55	+23	--	+1	--	+30	--	+23	--	+29

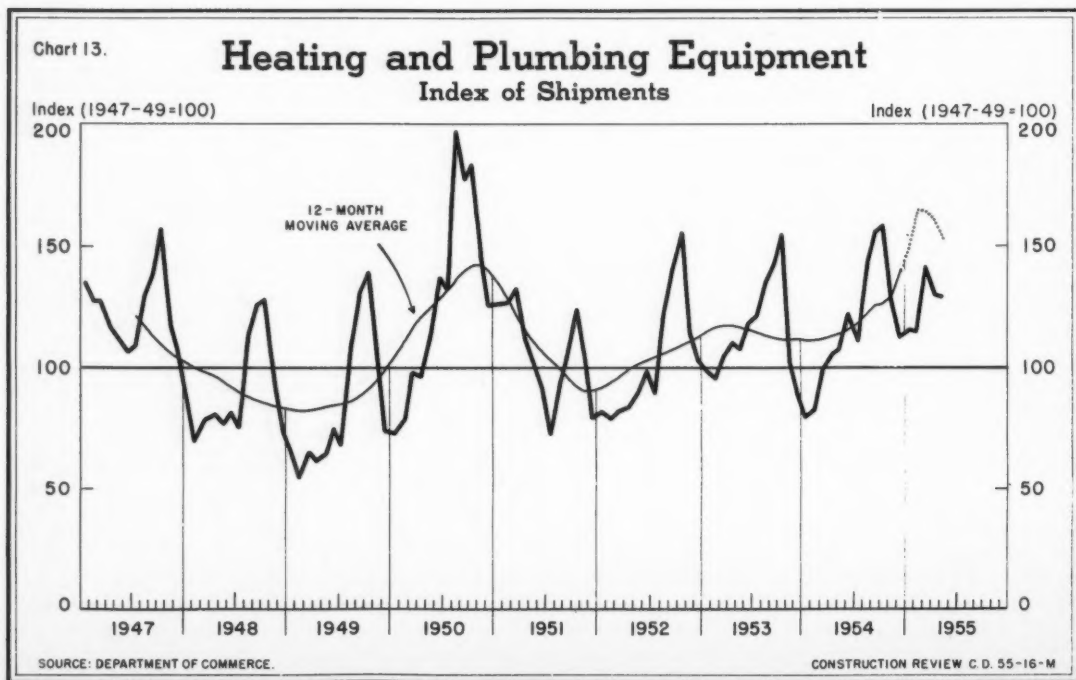
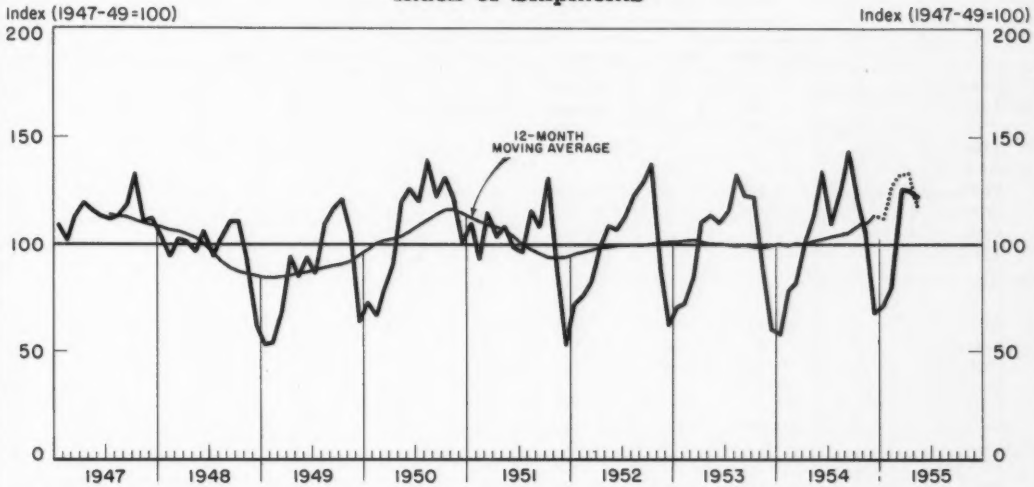
Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Sold separately.

Chart 14.

Asphalt Products Index of Shipments



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 55-16-G

Table 37.--Imports and Exports of Selected Construction Materials

Item	Unit of quantity	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
		Year		First 3 months		Year		First 3 months	
		1953	1954	1954	1955	1953	1954	1954	1955
LUMBER, MILLWORK, & WOOD PRODUCTS:									
Softwoods	MM bd. ft.	2, 527	2, 855	506	750	472	590	157	167
Hardwood flooring.....	M bd. ft.	4, 087	4, 629	1, 838	1, 608	17, 970	18, 955	2, 072	5, 406
Wood doors	Units	348, 095	249, 796	95, 320	62, 613	22, 159	22, 762	3, 928	3, 746
Wood window sash ¹	Units	--	--	--	--	11, 587	6, 915	1, 876	5, 114
Wallboard (hardboard)	Tons	2, 058	391	189	194	4, 266	5, 067	1, 061	1, 411
Insulating wallboard	Tons	4, 031	3, 706	883	336	17, 166	18, 658	4, 523	4, 865
Insulation, flexible, wood and vegetable fiber ¹	Tons	--	--	--	--	1, 227	861	211	167
Softwood plywood, interior ¹	M sq. ft.	951	2, 164	215	579	5, 473	4, 112	838	478
Softwood plywood, exterior ¹	M sq. ft.					4, 175	2, 570	410	1, 563
CEMENT, GYPSUM, & ASBESTOS:									
Portland cement	M bbls.	383	448	43	232	2, 093	1, 448	109	214
Asbestos construction materials.....	Tons	1, 092	4, 169	144	109	14, 809	15, 056	2, 692	1, 055
Gypsum board and lath ¹	M sq. ft.	--	--	--	--	45, 767	20, 969	6, 034	6, 450
Asphalt tile ¹	M sq. yds.	--	--	--	--	1, 844	2, 263	474	416
IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS:									
Cast-iron pipe, pressure ¹	Tons	3, 721	5, 941	1, 116	1, 933	26, 554	21, 490	7, 154	2, 725
Cast-iron pipe, soil ¹	Tons					8, 459	10, 770	1, 399	1, 616
Concrete reinforcing bars	Tons	107, 819	164, 099	37, 771	49, 227	53, 354	29, 856	8, 201	18, 497
Steel piling.....	Tons	5, 807	1, 814	313	219	10, 588	21, 369	4, 254	2, 475
Rails	Tons	2, 004	3, 511	292	235	190, 903	96, 595	46, 219	12, 301
Line pipe ¹	Tons	--	--	--	--	180, 283	155, 108	21, 941	10, 178
Fabricated structural steel ¹	Tons	--	--	--	--	61, 604	48, 179	9, 560	15, 709
Gas water heaters ¹	Units	--	--	--	--	22, 996	27, 154	4, 229	6, 706
CLAY PRODUCTS:									
Clay building and paving bricks	M brick	4, 396	4, 696	1, 050	1, 549	38, 901	45, 541	7, 879	7, 414
Clay floor and wall tiles	M sq. ft.	3, 937	5, 311	956	2, 527	5, 208	6, 087	1, 444	1, 866
Hollow building tile ¹	Tons	--	--	--	--	19, 044	20, 709	4, 533	4, 752
Clay sewer pipe and drain tile ¹	Tons	--	--	--	--	7, 270	8, 655	1, 509	883

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

¹ Data for imports not available in same detail as for exports.

Part VII--Employment

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors							Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (in thousands)											
Year: 1948	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954	2,527.0	2,021.0	848.8	1,172.7	283.4	141.4	156.5	591.5	506.0	217.4	288.2
1954: May	2,542.0	2,012.0	854.2	1,158.0	276.7	138.9	154.5	587.9	530.0	230.8	299.3
June	2,629.0	2,070.0	877.2	1,192.3	280.7	150.2	157.6	603.8	559.0	255.2	303.7
July	2,686.0	2,113.0	899.8	1,213.3	286.3	154.6	159.9	612.5	573.0	264.1	308.8
Aug.	2,735.0	2,151.0	915.2	1,236.2	293.1	160.2	158.6	624.3	584.0	268.4	315.5
Sept.	2,698.0	2,129.0	897.6	1,231.1	291.4	157.0	155.0	627.7	569.0	262.1	306.9
Oct.	2,652.0	2,099.0	877.2	1,221.9	291.1	148.4	155.5	626.9	553.0	252.6	300.7
Nov.	2,598.0	2,074.0	862.6	1,211.7	288.1	144.2	155.4	624.0	524.0	231.2	292.6
Dec.	2,426.0	1,975.0	801.9	1,173.4	283.1	135.5	153.7	601.1	451.0	186.0	265.2
1955: Jan.	2,237.0	1,839.0	733.3	1,106.1	270.6	121.6	148.5	565.4	398.0	152.6	244.9
Feb.	2,169.0	1,780.0	694.6	1,085.6	264.7	121.7	144.6	554.6	389.0	147.4	241.2
Mar.	2,255.0	1,844.0	723.9	1,119.9	266.3	129.2	143.6	580.8	411.0	161.9	249.0
Apr.	2,399.0	1,935.0	759.8	1,174.8	272.5	140.2	143.8	618.3	464.0	196.4	267.3
May	2,529.0	2,013.0	794.8	1,218.5	279.2	147.5	145.7	646.1	516.0	234.5	281.7
Percent change											
Apr.-May 1955 ..	+5.4	+4.0	+4.6	+3.7	+2.5	+5.2	+1.3	+4.5	+11.2	+19.4	+5.4
May, 1954-55 ...	- .5	(1)	-7.0	+5.2	+ .9	+6.2	-5.7	+9.9	- 2.6	+ 1.6	-5.9

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than 0.5 percent.

Table 39.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)													
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT (seasonally adjusted) ¹												
1948	100.8	95.8	98.2	100.1	101.6	103.9	104.6	105.2	105.6	106.0	106.9	107.0	103.1
1949	105.7	103.2	102.0	101.2	101.0	101.3	102.6	103.5	104.5	104.2	104.1	101.8	102.9
1950	100.8	99.9	100.1	103.3	106.3	111.1	114.4	116.5	117.6	119.0	119.7	117.5	110.9
1951	120.1	119.9	122.2	123.3	126.4	124.3	125.2	125.6	125.1	126.2	123.9	124.6	123.8
1952	123.6	124.8	123.1	123.0	123.5	125.8	126.4	127.1	127.5	125.9	126.0	125.2	125.2
1953	124.4	124.7	124.7	124.0	123.5	123.4	124.1	124.5	125.8	126.2	125.2	124.1	124.6
1954	119.0	120.7	122.1	121.3	120.8	120.1	120.4	120.3	119.8	118.9	119.8	117.6	120.0
1955	116.8	114.5	117.7	118.7	120.1								
	INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS												
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	112.1	118.2	124.6	127.5	129.8	123.8	123.5	118.2	108.9	115.9
1955	96.0	92.4	100.6	106.1	117.3								

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the Federal Reserve Board.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

43

Table 40.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected States

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, May 1954-55
	1954			1955					1952	1953	1954	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	May	May	May	
Alabama	35.8	35.2	31.6	29.2	29.9	31.1	31.7	33.2	38.2	31.7	32.5	+ 2
Arizona	15.8	15.8	16.0	15.1	15.0	15.9	16.0	16.3	15.0	18.1	17.6	- 7
Arkansas	16.8	16.4	15.6	16.5	17.3	17.6	18.0	18.7	23.6	18.7	14.7	+27
California	264.0	257.7	258.1	243.9	249.6	255.4	262.5	268.3	227.8	260.7	246.5	+ 9
Colorado	25.7	25.0	23.8	22.2	21.1	22.1	24.1	25.4	29.3	28.2	25.0	+ 2
Connecticut ¹	41.9	41.1	40.0	38.2	36.3	37.6	41.4	45.5	43.0	38.7	37.9	+20
District of Columbia ..	19.3	19.0	18.0	17.0	16.6	17.1	18.2	18.5	19.0	18.3	17.1	+ 8
Florida	81.9	83.3	82.9	78.7	77.8	78.4	79.2	79.7	70.2	75.9	79.4	(2)
Georgia	52.1	50.5	49.2	49.7	50.1	52.3	52.6	54.4	47.5	50.5	47.3	+15
Idaho	9.1	7.3	6.1	4.9	5.1	5.7	7.9	9.1	10.4	9.4	8.7	+ 5
Illinois	175.1	171.3	159.8	146.1	139.6	145.5	154.7	167.7	165.3	166.2	162.3	+ 3
Indiana	61.8	63.3	59.8	56.3	54.0	57.9	63.2	66.5	68.2	62.4	56.9	+17
Iowa	35.5	35.2	30.2	25.4	23.8	25.9	29.6	33.3	33.0	30.1	29.8	+12
Kansas	41.2	39.5	35.5	32.5	31.0	35.8	39.1	39.5	39.0	34.3	38.0	+ 4
Louisiana	51.9	50.3	49.4	44.0	44.3	45.3	45.5	45.8	48.5	56.1	53.1	-14
Maine	14.5	14.1	12.7	10.7	9.9	9.7	11.4	14.6	12.2	11.9	13.7	+ 7
Maryland	61.5	60.5	56.3	53.6	51.6	55.9	59.5	62.2	62.9	61.0	60.5	+ 3
Massachusetts	78.4	79.2	73.8	66.5	61.9	66.4	73.9	79.4	76.2	71.1	71.9	+10
Michigan	123.2	122.0	111.4	101.6	96.6	95.1	100.1	105.5	103.5	96.4	110.9	- 5
Minnesota	60.4	58.7	50.3	45.2	42.7	42.9	49.2	58.6	49.2	47.6	50.0	+17
Mississippi	16.6	16.7	15.5	16.2	15.9	16.8	17.2	19.1	19.0	19.2	15.6	+22
Missouri	68.8	68.2	65.2	60.1	60.6	65.7	67.6	68.3	63.7	58.0	66.1	+ 3
Montana	12.0	9.9	8.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.5	9.9	12.5	9.5	10.1	- 2
Nebraska	23.1	21.8	18.8	15.8	15.7	16.9	19.7	22.8	20.6	19.4	21.7	+ 5
Nevada	8.4	8.1	8.1	7.8	8.3	8.5	9.4	9.8	6.8	8.7	8.4	+17
New Hampshire	8.5	8.4	7.8	6.4	6.1	6.7	8.2	8.9	7.9	6.8	7.1	+25
New Jersey	100.5	98.5	94.9	86.5	80.1	86.6	94.0	101.6	97.1	92.5	99.9	+ 2
New Mexico	15.1	14.4	14.0	13.1	13.1	13.9	14.8	15.5	14.3	14.3	14.0	+11
New York	246.0	238.3	220.8	202.9	194.6	203.1	217.7	232.9	222.6	224.4	235.6	- 1
North Carolina	48.0	47.7	45.3	43.5	42.5	44.4	44.8	47.4	58.1	51.5	47.5	(2)
North Dakota	13.1	11.0	8.4	6.3	5.9	6.0	8.2	11.0	9.9	9.0	11.4	- 4
Ohio	161.1	154.7	143.4	130.0	122.1	127.4	136.9	147.4	148.7	143.0	151.0	- 2
Oklahoma	31.2	31.4	29.8	27.5	28.2	29.5	31.2	30.9	33.7	34.1	31.1	- 1
Oregon	25.0	22.2	20.9	19.2	18.5	19.4	20.6	23.8	24.5	24.0	22.2	+ 7
Pennsylvania ³	190.3	184.5	170.4	156.1	147.1	158.8	175.1	188.8	186.3	175.0	169.9	+11
Rhode Island	17.7	17.2	16.5	15.0	14.6	15.7	17.0	17.2	17.4	15.4	15.2	+13
South Carolina	38.1	35.9	34.7	33.6	34.2	34.2	35.6	36.4	59.2	52.5	39.4	-8
South Dakota	10.2	8.6	7.4	6.4	6.1	7.3	9.1	10.9	9.7	9.3	9.9	+10
Tennessee	61.0	59.8	56.4	52.4	51.0	52.2	53.1	56.0	46.9	48.5	51.8	+ 8
Texas	152.0	155.2	151.1	148.6	155.6	162.4	162.7	164.1	171.1	167.6	146.0	+12
Utah	13.6	13.2	11.7	9.3	8.8	10.0	11.8	12.7	12.3	11.8	10.4	+22
Vermont	4.8	4.7	4.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.6	4.5	3.4	4.0	4.3	+ 5
Virginia	62.4	60.6	56.7	55.0	55.0	57.1	59.3	59.9	64.4	60.4	56.6	+ 6
Washington	49.3	46.9	44.4	41.2	39.3	41.1	44.7	46.1	50.6	48.3	49.0	- 6
West Virginia	19.4	18.1	14.7	14.3	13.7	15.2	16.2	17.0	17.2	20.2	19.6	-13
Wisconsin	57.8	56.7	52.2	48.1	45.9	47.3	50.8	56.2	46.1	52.0	49.2	+14
Wyoming	7.0	5.7	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	5.8	7.4	6.4	6.3	- 8

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes a small number of employees in mining series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.² Change of less than 0.5 percent.³ Revised

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 41.—Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, May 1954-55
	1954			1955					1952	1953	1954	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	May	May	May	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y. ...	8.6	7.6	6.6	5.5	4.9	4.8	5.4	6.3	6.8	6.8	7.0	-10
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.7	4.5	5.5	4.6	+24
Atlanta, Ga.	18.0	18.3	18.1	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.3	19.5	15.4	15.4	16.0	+22
Baltimore, Md.	38.3	37.6	35.1	33.6	31.9	34.4	36.3	37.9	37.2	37.2	38.0	(1)
Baton Rouge, La.	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.6	(2)	(2)	5.5	+ 2
Binghamton, N. Y.	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	+ 7
Birmingham, Ala.	12.1	11.8	11.1	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.8	12.6	11.3	10.4	10.4	+21
Boise, Idaho	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	1.6	- 6
Boston, Mass.	41.7	42.0	39.9	36.4	33.4	36.7	41.5	44.9	43.9	42.7	39.4	+14
Bridgeport, Conn. ³	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.2	4.3	3.9	+33
Buffalo, N. Y.	21.0	19.7	17.0	15.1	13.7	13.6	15.7	17.5	17.7	18.8	17.8	- 2
Casper, Wyo.	1.5	1.4	.9	.8	.9	.8	.9	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	- 9
Charleston, S. C.	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.7	+ 8
Charleston, W. Va.	4.3	4.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.1	5.1	3.9	4.1	0
Charlotte, N. C.	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	6.5	5.8	6.4	-14
Chattanooga, Tenn.	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	2.6	5.0	3.9	+13
Chicago, Ill.	111.2	110.7	104.0	97.8	94.8	99.6	104.8	110.9	105.9	109.9	106.9	+ 4
Denver, Colo.	16.7	15.7	14.7	13.7	13.0	13.4	14.4	15.3	19.0	18.2	16.2	- 6
Des Moines, Iowa	6.5	6.4	5.3	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.5	6.0	4.0	3.0	4.4	+36
Detroit, Mich.	73.9	73.6	67.5	61.7	59.4	56.9	60.0	62.1	(2)	54.2	69.0	-10
Duluth, Minn.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	+25
Great Falls, Mont.	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	(2)	1.4	1.4	+ 7
Harrisburg, Pa.	7.6	7.5	6.4	5.6	5.3	6.1	6.8	6.9	7.6	6.0	5.0	+17
Hartford, Conn. ³	9.4	9.2	8.8	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.9	9.3	9.7	8.7	8.8	+ 6
Indianapolis, Ind.	9.1	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.6	8.8	9.4	11.4	11.3	9.5	- 1
Jacksonville, Fla.	9.3	9.2	9.2	8.9	9.3	9.0	8.8	8.7	9.4	8.2	9.5	- 8
Kansas City, Mo.	16.8	18.0	18.9	18.6	18.4	19.0	19.4	18.7	20.2	19.9	20.8	-10
Knoxville, Tenn.	16.4	16.4	13.8	12.5	11.5	11.0	10.4	10.4	5.6	9.0	12.2	-15
Lewiston, Maine	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	.9	.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	+10
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark. ..	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	+43
Los Angeles, Calif.	120.8	120.2	123.0	116.8	120.4	123.3	125.4	126.2	106.0	119.2	115.8	+ 9
Manchester, N. H.	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.2	+50
Memphis, Tenn.	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.0	9.0	9.9	10.1	10.7	11.2	9.5	9.6	+11
Miami, Fla.	21.4	24.1	24.5	23.2	22.9	23.6	23.6	22.9	16.1	17.2	19.5	+17
Milwaukee, Wis.	20.3	20.4	19.5	18.3	17.4	18.2	19.6	20.9	(2)	(2)	17.7	+18
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	34.3	33.0	28.5	25.2	24.3	25.2	30.1	35.2	29.7	27.4	28.6	+23
Mobile, Ala.	3.7	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.4	4.4	(2)	4.9	4.2	+ 5
Nashville, Tenn. ²	8.0	7.4	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.5	(2)	9.1	7.1	+ 6
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N.Y.	29.0	28.4	27.3	25.1	23.2	26.1	28.2	29.4	(2)	27.7	29.9	- 2
Newark-Jersey City, N.J.	29.6	28.6	28.6	25.5	24.4	26.4	28.7	32.6	(2)	29.1	29.6	+10
New Bedford, Mass.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	+27
New Britain, Conn. ³	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	0
New Haven, Conn. ³	6.0	6.0	5.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.6	+ 2
New Orleans, La.	20.9	20.7	20.2	19.9	19.5	20.1	20.1	20.3	16.4	18.8	21.5	- 6
New York City, N.Y.	104.5	103.2	99.7	95.2	95.7	99.3	101.9	107.0	104.0	103.8	108.5	- 1
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.9	11.4	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.2	11.5	11.3	11.2	11.6	11.2	+ 1
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8.6	8.4	8.1	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.6	8.8	11.3	9.0	8.9	- 1
Omaha, Nebr.	9.0	8.8	7.8	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.3	8.3	8.3	6.7	8.9	- 7
Phoenix, Ariz.	8.4	8.9	9.1	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.6	7.2	9.1	9.3	- 8
Pittsburgh, Pa.	37.8	38.6	38.4	35.1	33.5	35.9	40.8	42.9	(2)	38.6	34.5	+24
Portland, Maine	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	+ 6
Portland, Ore.	14.3	13.2	12.4	11.5	11.2	11.7	12.2	13.7	14.1	13.0	12.0	+14
Providence, R. I.	15.7	15.3	14.6	13.3	13.0	13.9	15.0	15.3	15.4	13.7	13.5	+13
Racine, Wis.	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	(2)	(2)	1.7	+12
Reno, Nev.	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.5	2.1	+ 5
Richmond, Va. ⁴	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.8	9.9	11.7	10.2	9.5	+ 4
Rochester, N.Y.	10.3	9.8	8.8	8.2	7.9	8.0	8.8	8.9	8.2	8.2	7.8	+14
St. Louis, Mo.	43.7	42.9	39.5	36.0	34.2	36.9	37.4	37.1	(2)	(2)	41.0	-10
Salt Lake City, Utah	8.1	7.7	6.8	6.4	6.3	7.0	7.6	7.7	7.4	6.6	5.7	+35
San Diego, Calif. ⁴	12.0	11.9	12.3	12.2	12.4	12.6	12.8	12.9	13.2	14.2	12.4	+ 4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 41.—Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas—Continued

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, May 1954-55
	1954			1955					1952	1953	1954	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	May	May	May	
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. ..	60.5	59.4	58.7	54.9	53.4	53.4	55.8	57.8	45.9	59.9	54.2	+ 7
Savannah, Ga.	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.3	3.0	+17
Seattle, Wash.	14.2	13.3	12.7	12.3	12.5	13.6	14.4	15.0	13.3	13.0	12.5	+20
Spokane, Wash.	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.9	5.4	4.1	4.9	-20
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	5.6	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.4	4.3	4.7	+ 4
Stamford, Conn. ³	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.2	+ 6
Syracuse, N.Y.	7.7	7.3	6.2	5.0	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.6	+ 2
Tacoma, Wash.	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.5	3.6	+17
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	13.4	13.2	12.9	12.9	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.7	11.3	11.8	12.0	+ 6
Topeka, Kans.	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.0	2.3	+35
Tucson, Ariz.	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	4.6	4.7	3.2	0
Tulsa, Okla.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.7	8.2	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.4	+ 7
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	3.2	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	3.1	3.6	3.3	-42
Washington, D. C.	40.4	39.6	38.1	36.5	35.9	37.0	39.0	39.9	39.6	37.7	37.6	+ 6
Waterbury, Conn. ³	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	- 5
Westchester Co., N. Y.	16.2	16.2	15.0	13.6	12.4	13.4	15.0	15.7	(2)	(2)	15.7	0
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va. ..	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.4	4.2	4.0	- 3
Wichita, Kans.	7.2	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.7	7.1	7.1	6.5	6.6	6.9	+ 3
Worcester, Mass.	3.6	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	-14

Source: Department of Labor.

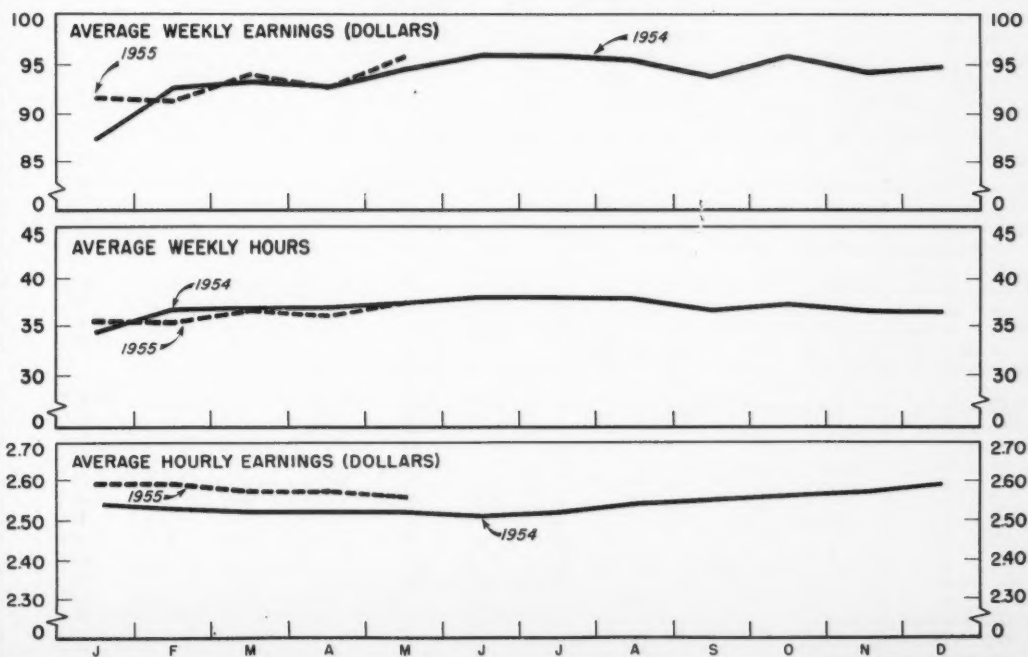
¹ Change of less than 0.5 percent.² Not available.³ Includes a small number of employees in

mining.

⁴ Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.

Chart 15

Hours and Earnings of Workers In Contract Construction



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 55-2-K

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 42--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	\$91.61	\$91.76	\$87.75	\$94.79	\$98.30	\$87.10	\$111.61	\$91.04	\$90.27	\$85.28	\$93.85
1954.....	93.98	94.12	89.41	98.01	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1954: May	94.50	94.69	89.67	98.36	101.95	89.78	113.59	94.68	94.19	88.97	97.93
June	95.63	95.72	90.04	99.70	103.41	92.04	113.39	95.89	96.56	91.81	100.28
July	96.01	95.20	89.55	99.43	103.14	92.39	112.40	96.15	97.71	95.26	99.39
August	96.52	96.20	91.51	99.53	103.52	92.31	113.88	96.10	97.21	93.09	100.77
September	93.84	94.32	89.00	98.10	102.92	92.57	110.08	94.08	92.97	88.75	96.33
October	95.74	96.26	91.62	99.46	103.63	92.75	115.05	94.87	94.13	86.62	100.53
November	94.32	94.15	89.61	97.02	100.10	90.37	112.18	93.90	94.30	88.94	98.55
December	94.28	95.40	90.83	98.28	107.20	91.12	113.30	91.77	89.47	80.51	96.08
1955: January	91.69	93.02	88.55	96.10	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
February	91.43	91.96	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.31	78.79	94.11
March	94.06	94.42	89.14	97.92	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
April	92.52	93.10	87.40	97.10	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
May	95.74	96.52	90.02	100.74	104.88	95.14	114.17	97.19	94.54	90.03	98.21
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1953.....	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954.....	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.3	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1954: May	37.5	36.7	36.6	36.7	37.9	34.8	38.9	36.0	40.6	41.0	40.3
June	38.1	37.1	36.9	37.2	38.3	35.4	39.1	36.6	41.8	42.7	41.1
July	38.1	36.9	36.7	37.1	38.2	35.4	38.1	36.7	42.3	43.9	40.9
August	38.0	37.0	36.9	37.0	38.2	35.1	39.0	36.4	41.9	42.7	41.3
September	36.8	36.0	35.6	36.2	37.7	34.8	37.7	35.5	39.9	40.9	39.0
October	37.4	36.6	36.5	36.7	38.1	35.0	39.0	35.8	40.4	40.1	40.7
November	36.7	35.8	35.7	35.8	36.8	34.1	37.9	35.3	40.3	40.8	39.9
December	36.4	36.0	35.9	36.0	38.7	34.0	38.8	34.5	38.4	37.8	38.9
1955: January	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
February	35.3	34.7	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	37.9	37.7	38.1
March	36.6	35.9	35.8	36.0	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
April	36.0	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May	37.4	36.7	36.3	36.9	38.0	35.5	38.7	36.4	40.4	41.3	39.6
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	2.43	2.48	2.34	2.59	2.58	2.51	2.84	2.55	2.24	2.07	2.37
1954.....	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.70	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1954: May	2.52	2.58	2.45	2.68	2.69	2.58	2.92	2.63	2.32	2.17	2.43
June	2.51	2.58	2.44	2.68	2.70	2.60	2.90	2.62	2.31	2.15	2.44
July	2.52	2.58	2.44	2.68	2.70	2.61	2.95	2.62	2.31	2.17	2.43
August	2.54	2.60	2.48	2.69	2.71	2.63	2.92	2.64	2.32	2.18	2.44
September	2.55	2.62	2.50	2.71	2.73	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.33	2.17	2.47
October	2.56	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.95	2.65	2.33	2.16	2.47
November	2.57	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.96	2.66	2.34	2.18	2.47
December	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.92	2.66	2.33	2.13	2.47
1955: January	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
February	2.59	2.65	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.33	2.09	2.47
March	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
April	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May	2.56	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.76	2.68	2.95	2.67	2.34	2.18	2.48
Percent change, May 1954 to 1955											
Avg. wkly. earnings ..	+1.3	+1.9	+0.4	+2.4	+2.9	+6.0	+0.5	+2.7	+0.4	+1.2	+0.3
Avg. wkly. hours	-.3	0	-.8	+.5	+.3	+2.0	-.5	+1.1	-.5	+.7	-1.7
Avg. hrly. earnings	+1.6	+1.9	+1.2	+1.9	+2.6	+3.9	+1.0	+1.5	+.9	+.5	+2.1

Source: Department of Labor.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

47

Table 43.--Labor Required for New Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction ¹

Type of construction	Average number of workers required per month (In thousands)									Percent change	
	1954 ²				1955		1952	1953	1954 ²	2d qtr. 1955 from--	
	1st qtr.	2d qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr. ²	2d qtr.				2d qtr. 1954	1st. qtr. 1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	2, 510	3, 170	3, 680	3, 345	2, 850	3, 535	2, 840	2, 980	3, 175	+12	+24
Off-site	310	385	450	415	350	435	345	365	390	+13	+24
On-site	2, 200	2, 785	3, 230	2, 930	2, 500	3, 100	2, 495	2, 615	2, 785	+11	+24
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	1, 620	2, 010	2, 300	2, 195	1, 935	2, 305	1, 780	1, 900	2, 030	+15	+19
Building (nonfarm)	1, 189	1, 474	1, 709	1, 692	1, 510	1, 779	1, 253	1, 346	1, 515	+21	+18
Residential	762	1, 025	1, 212	1, 200	1, 027	1, 257	875	922	1, 050	+23	+22
Nonresidential	427	449	497	492	483	522	378	424	465	+16	+ 8
Industrial	133	123	118	131	137	135	152	140	125	+10	- 1
Commercial	160	174	208	197	196	229	98	151	185	+32	+17
Educational and hospital	55	59	65	63	56	55	56	54	60	- 7	- 2
Other nonresidential bldg.	79	93	106	101	94	103	72	79	95	+11	+10
Farm	125	167	186	124	112	147	159	167	150	-12	+31
Public utility	299	360	393	367	300	364	361	377	355	+ 1	+21
Railroads	31	35	31	35	24	32	45	43	33	- 9	+33
Telephone and telegraph.....	49	57	57	53	50	56	52	53	54	- 2	+12
Other public utility	219	268	305	279	226	276	264	281	268	+ 3	+22
All other private	7	9	12	12	13	15	7	10	10	+67	+15
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	580	775	930	735	565	795	715	715	755	+ 3	+41
Building	307	333	347	315	279	315	326	321	326	- 5	+13
Residential	29	25	20	18	18	18	47	39	23	-28	0
Nonresidential	278	308	327	297	261	297	279	282	303	- 4	+14
Industrial	87	80	73	76	48	42	91	92	79	-47	-12
Educational	134	150	160	152	149	170	122	125	149	+13	+14
Hospital	22	29	29	23	20	26	36	25	26	-10	+30
Other nonresidential bldg.	35	49	65	46	44	59	30	40	49	+20	+34
Military facilities.....	50	57	64	61	54	73	85	78	58	+28	+35
Highway	116	254	375	240	127	270	190	194	246	+ 6	+113
Sewer and water	58	65	72	64	60	75	50	59	65	+15	+25
Miscellaneous public-service enterprises	12	18	24	15	12	19	16	16	17	+ 6	+58
Conservation and development.....	27	36	36	30	23	30	43	39	32	-17	+30
All other public	10	12	12	10	10	13	5	8	11	+ 8	+30

Source: Department of Labor.
vised data.

¹ Estimated number of full-time workers required to put in place the current volume of construction.

² Re-

MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, APRIL 1953-APRIL 1954

About 5 million persons moved from one State to another to establish new residence between April 1953 and April 1954 according to a survey by the Bureau of the Census. Another 5 million moved to another county within the same State. About 19 million others moved to other dwellings in the same county. In April 1954, rural nonfarm places had the largest proportion of movers, and the rural farm places had the lowest proportion.

The net gain by in-migration amounted to 272,000 in the West and 173,000 in the North Central region. Net losses resulting from population migration amounted to 401,000 in the South and 44,000 in the Northeast. The regional migration figures are as follows:

Region	Population--		Net change
	Moving in	Moving out	
West	671,000	399,000	+272,000
North Central	827,000	654,000	+173,000
South	682,000	1,083,000	-401,000
Northeast	364,000	408,000	-44,000

--Mobility of the Population of the United States, April 1953 to April 1954. Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 57, April 25, 1955. 12 pp. This report may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., at 10 cents each.

He

la

Ge
and

Ne
bo

Housing Amendments of 1955. (Public Law 345, approved August 11, 1955.)

Among the major provisions contained in this comprehensive measure extending and clarifying laws relating primarily to the provision and improvement of housing, are those which:

General provisions and reorganization

- (1) Increased the FHA general mortgage insurance authorization by adding \$4 billion to the amount outstanding on July 1, 1955, thus providing sufficient underwriting authority to meet estimated requirements through June 30, 1956.
- (2) Made the Home Loan Bank Board an independent agency, reporting directly to the President.

New private housing

- (3) Raised the FHA mortgage ceilings for multifamily housing from \$5 million to \$12.5 million for projects with private sponsorship under the regular Sec. 207 rental housing program, the Sec. 213 cooperative housing program, the Sec. 221 program covering housing for families who leave or are displaced from housing in slum clearance or urban renewal areas, and the Sec. 220 program for the construction or rehabilitation of housing in slum clearance or urban renewal areas. The ceilings were increased in recognition of the advance in construction costs which has occurred since 1938 when the \$5 million limitation was first imposed.
- (4) Authorized the Federal National Mortgage Association to make advance commitments for FHA Sec. 213 cooperative housing mortgages up to \$50 million. Not more than \$5 million of the authorization may be used for commitments in any one State.
- (5) Substituted "estimated replacement cost" for "estimated value" as the basis for FHA insurance under the cooperative housing (Sec. 213) and the urban renewal (Sec. 220) programs. Under present conditions, the use of replacement cost would usually result in a larger loan for multifamily housing.
- (6) Specifically authorized FHA to insure Sec. 207 mortgages on rental properties having 8 or more family units. Properties insured under Sec. 207 are now required by administrative action to have 12 or more family units.
- (7) Eliminated the cost certification requirements for single-family houses insured under the FHA relocation housing program (Sec. 221), making this section consistent with that covering single-family sales housing (Sec. 203); and broadened the category of families eligible for occupancy in housing assisted under the Sec. 221 program to include those who voluntarily leave housing in urban renewal areas, as well as those displaced by governmental action.
- (8) Extended the FHA title VIII (Wherry Act) military housing program until September 30, 1956, and established a new authorization of \$1,363,500,000 for this program, in addition to amounts in the general FHA insurance authorization. Insurance would be issued for units which the Secretary of Defense determines are needed to meet essential military requirements, or for personnel for whom adequate housing is not available at reasonable rentals within reasonable commuting distance of a military installation. The amount of the insured mortgage is limited to the FHA estimate of replacement cost (including cost of land, physical improvements, and onsite utilities), which may not exceed an average of \$13,500 per family unit for the part of the project attributable to dwelling use. The maximum mortgage amount for Wherry housing under previous legislation was \$9,000 for single-family rental units, and

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

an average of \$8,100 per family unit in multifamily structures. Maximum maturity on military housing loans under P.L. 345 would be 25 years (formerly the amortization period was at the discretion of the Federal Housing Commissioner, and the typical term was about 32 years); and the interest rate would be not more than 4 percent (formerly 4-1/4 percent, by administrative ruling). The previous Wherry Act program is continued only for those projects certified by the Secretary of Defense on or before June 30, 1955, and for which a commitment to insure is issued by FHA by June 30, 1956.

- (9) Revised and extended the college-housing loan program by (a) broadening the loan authority to include loans for such related facilities as dining halls, cafeterias, student centers or student unions, infirmaries and other health facilities; (b) increasing the revolving fund from \$300 million to \$500 million; and (c) increasing the maximum loan term from 40 to 50 years. Junior colleges were made eligible for loans.
- (10) Provided for a new program of FHA insurance on trailer courts or parks (land, utilities, and other improvements where the trailers are located), with a limit of \$1,000 per trailer space, or \$300,000 per mortgage.
- (11) Extended the present farm housing program under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 through the fiscal year 1956, and authorized an additional \$112 million for this purpose.
- (12) Extended the FHA Title I home repair and modernization loan program for 14 months to September 30, 1956.
- (13) Removed the \$2,500 limitation on individual FHA and VA improvement loans by Federal Savings and Loan Associations, thus enabling such institutions to make loans in greater amounts for FHA-insured multifamily housing and VA-guaranteed business properties.
- (14) Authorized new contracts for not more than 45,000 public housing units between the date of enactment of P.L. 345 and July 31, 1956; and terminated the several detailed requirements which restricted additional contracts for low-rent public housing to families displaced by urban renewal or other Governmental activities. No provision was made in P.L. 345 for carryover of units authorized under prior legislation and not yet committed. Nearly 30,000 public housing units authorized under earlier laws have been committed, but have not yet been started.
- (15) Authorized an increase of \$400 million in capital grant funds for the slum clearance and urban renewal programs for the fiscal years 1956 and 1957, as well as an additional \$100 million for these programs to be used at the discretion of the President; and increased from \$35 million to \$70 million the amount of additional capital grants funds authorized for allocation to States which are obligated already up to two-thirds of their limit (10 percent of the total capital grants is the limit for any one State).
- (16) Authorized a \$100,000,000 program of Federal low-interest loans to municipalities for construction of public projects such as water, sewer, and gas systems. Maturity on such loans would be 40 years, and there would be priority for communities of 10,000 population or less. The program is to be administered by the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, acting through the Community Facilities Commissioner.
- (17) Established a revolving fund totaling \$48 million (\$10 million previously authorized, \$12 million on July 1, 1956, \$12 million on July 1, 1957, and \$14 million on July 1, 1958) for Federal advances to State and local agencies

Repair and improvement loans

Public housing

Slum clearance and urban renewal

Public works

to assist in the preparation of a "reservoir" of planned public works. Not more than 10 percent (formerly 5 percent) of these funds may be advanced to any one State. The previous July 1, 1957 expiration date was eliminated.

Authorization of Appropriations for the Atomic Energy Commission. (Public Law 141, approved July 11, 1955.)

This law authorizes the appropriation of \$269,159,000* to the Atomic Energy Commission for construction, acquisition, or expansion of plants and facilities, distributed as follows: reactor development projects, \$130,712,000; atomic weapon projects, \$65,198,000; special nuclear material facilities and plants, \$24,634,000; general plant projects, \$17,960,000; physical research projects, \$11,590,000; community facilities (housing units, hospital, water and sewer replacements and improvements), \$6,810,000; source and other raw materials processing plants and storage facilities, \$6,215,000; and biological and medical research projects, \$6,040,000.

P.L. 141 also places limitations upon (1) the amount by which the Commission's estimated costs for specific projects may deviate from final costs, and (2) the Commission's authority to substitute a different project for one previously authorized.

Military Construction Act of 1955. (Public Law 161, approved July 15, 1955.)

This law authorizes the appropriation of nearly \$2.4 billion* for construction at military, naval, and Air Force installations within the United States and at overseas locations, and for a Central Intelligence Agency headquarters installation, distributed as follows: Department of the Air Force, \$1,207,902,000; Department of the Navy, \$564,224,300; Department of the Army, \$533,904,000; and Central Intelligence Agency, \$54,500,000. Of the total, about \$1.3 billion is designated for bases in the continental United States, \$641 million for bases abroad, and most of the remainder for projects at secret locations.

A large part of the funds authorized in this law would be used for constructing and enlarging airfields to handle heavier and faster Air Force and Navy planes now coming into operational use.

P.L. 161 also amends section 407 of Public Law 765, 83rd Congress, to increase, from \$25 million to \$100 million, the authority of the Secretary of Defense to construct, or acquire by lease or otherwise, family housing in foreign countries through the use of the proceeds from the sale of surplus agricultural commodities by the Commodity Credit Corporation. It also revises the provision concerning the reimbursement of the Commodity Credit Corporation, to provide that the limitation of \$100 million shall apply to the amount of the expenditure of foreign currencies instead of to the value of the houses.

Expansion of Federal Aid for Airport Construction. (Public Law 211, approved August 3, 1955.)

As an amendment to the Federal Airport Act of 1946, this law expands the Government's airport construction program, increasing the contractual authority of the Secretary of Commerce by a total of \$232 million for the next four fiscal years. Contract authorizations of \$42,500,000 for the fiscal year 1956 are additional to the amounts already appropriated for that year in Public Law 121, namely, \$19,650,000 for projects in the continental United States and \$350,000 for projects in the Territories and possessions (see page 52, July 1955 issue of Construction Review). For each of the fiscal years 1957, 1958, and 1959, P.L. 211 provides \$60 million in contract authority for airport projects within the United States and \$3 million for projects in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Federal aid for airports is matched by State and local funds on a 50-50 basis.

By changing from the previous annual appropriation method of providing the Federal share, the effect of P.L. 211 is to give greater stability to the Federal-aid airport program, since State and municipal authorities will be able to make long-range plans with the assurance that Federal funds will

*Construction is authorized in the amounts shown, but actual appropriation must be made in separate legislation.

be available in specific amounts over a four-year period. This law also makes airport freight and passenger terminal buildings specifically eligible for Federal aid, and specifically covers public airports in all classes and categories, including those that may not serve the needs of commercial air carriers but are needed for business, agricultural, and other general types of flying.

Extension of the Renegotiation Act of 1951. (Public Law 216, approved August 3, 1955.)

This law extends the Renegotiation Act of 1951 two years, from its past expiration date of December 31, 1954, to December 31, 1956. It also provides that competitive-bid construction contracts, other than those covering military housing financed under the provisions of title VIII of the National Housing Act, shall be exempt from the process of renegotiation, under which the Government recaptures excessive profits. The exemption applies only to contracts made after December 31, 1954.

Competitive-bid construction contracts previously were exempt from the Renegotiation Acts of 1943 and 1948. Negotiated fixed-price contracts are still subject to the price redetermining operations.

Appropriation Acts That Provide for Construction

District of Columbia Appropriation Act, 1956. (Public Law 131, approved July 5, 1955.)

This law provides \$35,001,700 (of which \$4,951,900 will not be available for expenditure until July 1, 1956) for new construction (including site acquisition and preparation of plans and specifications); purchase of equipment; repairs, alterations, and improvement of school, library, hospital, and other public buildings; land improvement and various facilities at recreational and correctional centers; street improvement (paving, drainage, street lighting, design and preliminary work on Potomac River bridge, etc.); and continuing construction at the Washington Aqueduct.

Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1956. (Public Law 157, approved July 13, 1955.)

The following major construction items appear in this law:

Department of the Army. \$31,611,000--construction and acquisition of National Guard armories, National Guard nonarmory facilities, and Army Reserve training centers.

Department of the Navy. \$28,061,400--construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation and conversion of Navy and Marine Corps training and administrative facilities.

Public Works Appropriation Act, 1956. (Public Law 163, approved July 15, 1955.)

Major construction items contained in this law are as follows:

Department of the Interior. (1) Bonneville Power Administration, \$14,600,000--construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations, and appurtenant facilities; (2) Bureau of Reclamation, \$146,041,000--construction and rehabilitation of authorized projects, and \$5,104,000 for engineering and economic investigations of proposed Federal reclamation projects (and reports to Congress for legislative action), and studies of water conservation and development plans of 17 States and Hawaii.

Department of the Army. (1) \$401,173,000--general construction on rivers and harbors, flood control, shore protection, and related authorized projects under the Corps of Engineers civil works program in the United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, of which \$5,742,000 is for detailed studies, plans, and specifications for authorized or legally eligible projects; (2) \$51,962,500--construction of levees, bank stabilization works, etc., and maintenance and repair work in connection with the Mississippi River and Tributaries flood control project.

Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1956. (Public Law 195, approved August 1, 1955.)

The major construction items contained in this law are all under Title II--Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and are as follows:

Public Health Service. (1) \$111,000,000--hospital construction grants, distributed as follows: \$90,000,000 for payments authorized under Part C of Title VI of the Public Health Service Act (the original Hill-Burton program), and \$21,000,000 under Part G (diagnostic and treatment centers, \$6,500,000; chronic disease hospitals, \$6,500,000; rehabilitation facilities, \$4,000,000; and nursing homes, \$4,000,000). The \$2,000,000 appropriated in 1954 for surveys and planning for hospital construction, which originally was to remain available until expended, must now be expended by June 30, 1957, under provisions of P.L. 195. (2) \$5,000,000--construction of Indian health facilities.

Office of Education. \$24,000,000--grants for carrying out the school construction program in federally affected areas in accordance with Public Law 815, 81st Congress, as amended. This amount, plus the amounts provided in the Second Supplemental Appropriation Act for 1955, P.L. 24 (see Construction Review, May 1955, p. 52), makes an estimated grand total of \$94,000,000 available for the current program which expires on June 30, 1956.

Social Security Administration. \$3,870,000--construction of a building in the Baltimore area for the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. This sum, together with funds appropriated previously, establish a cost limit of \$25,370,000 for this building.

NOTE: Selected additional laws enacted during the latter part of the first session of the 84th Congress will be summarized in September Construction Review.

Construction Regulations

FHA and VA Housing Credit Regulations Amended to Shorten Maximum Repayment Period and Increase Down Payment Requirements. (Federal Register, Vol. 20, No. 148, July 30, 1955, pp. 5475-5476.)

The Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans' Administration simultaneously announced that on and after July 30, 1955, the maximum repayment period for home loan mortgages would be reduced from 30 to 25 years, and the minimum cash down payment would be increased 2 percent (accomplished by lowering the maximum insurable loan-to-value ratios).

On VA-guaranteed loans, there has been no mandatory down payment requirement since April 23, 1953. The only exceptions to the new requirement of at least a 2-percent down payment, are G. I. loans made solely for the replacement or reconstruction of residential property that has been destroyed or substantially damaged by flood, fire, or other similar catastrophies, and repair, alteration, and improvement loans.

For new housing, on 1- to 4-family dwellings covered by Sec. 203(b) Sales Housing Loans (the bulk of the FHA program), and on 1- to 11-family dwellings under Sec. 220 Rehabilitation and Neighborhood Housing Insurance, the new directive requires a minimum down payment, exclusive of closing

costs, of 7 percent (12 percent for existing structures) of the first \$9,000 of the FHA's appraised value of the home, plus 27 percent of the amount above \$9,000, when the mortgagor is the owner-occupant. For the past year, the minimum had been 5 percent (10 percent for existing structures) of the first \$9,000 and 25 percent of the remainder. When the mortgagor is not the owner-occupant, the maximum amount that can be mortgaged remains unchanged at 85 percent of the mortgage loan amount available to the owner-occupant.

The minimum down payment was also raised on several other types of FHA-insured loans, as follows: (1) On single-family houses in outlying areas for families of low and moderate income (Sec. 203(i)), and on Sec. 221 low-cost rental or purchase housing for families displaced as a result of governmental action in a community which has a workable urban renewal program, the down payment for the owner-occupant now is 7 percent (formerly 5 percent) of the entire appraised value, and 17 percent (formerly 15 percent) for the operative-builder-borrower; (2) on Sec. 222 housing for servicemen on active duty for more than 2 years, the down payment for all mortgagors was increased from 5 percent to 7 percent of the appraised value; and (3) likewise, on Sec. 903 housing in critical defense areas, from 10 percent to 12 percent.

The reduction in maximum mortgage repayment time from 30 to 25 years means that most homebuyers will now be required to make larger monthly payments, as indicated in the table below:

Appraised value or purchase price	Minimum down payment		Monthly payment to principal and interest ¹	
	New terms	Old terms	New terms ²	Old terms ³
FHA-insured loans (Sec. 203(b) new housing)				
\$10,000	\$900	\$700	\$53.20	\$49.92
12,000	1,440	1,200	61.73	57.98
14,000	1,980	1,700	70.27	66.03
16,000	2,520	2,200	78.80	74.08
18,000	3,060	2,700	87.34	82.13
20,000	3,600	3,200	95.87	90.19
VA-guaranteed loans				
10,000	200	0	54.47	50.67
12,000	240	0	65.37	60.80
14,000	280	0	76.26	70.94
16,000	320	0	87.15	81.07
18,000	360	0	98.05	91.20
20,000	400	0	108.94	101.34

¹ In computing monthly payments, the minimum down payment and amortization in equal monthly installments were assumed. A 5-percent interest rate was used for FHA-insured loans (4-1/2 percent plus 1/2 percent insurance premium), and 4-1/2 percent for VA-guaranteed loans.

² Assumes maximum repayment period of 25 years.

³ Assumes maximum repayment period of 30 years.

What's New?

- ★ Basic Statistics
- ★ Business Trends
- ★ Commodity News
- ★ Foreign Trade Lists

- ★ Marketing Studies
- ★ Regional Development
- ★ Science
- ★ Technology
- ★ Defense Materials System

- ★ Transportation
- ★ World Trade
- ★ News Releases
- ★ Selected AEC Reports

See the **Business Service Checklist**

*. . . A complete weekly guide to new publications and releases
of all Bureaus and Offices of the Department of Commerce . . .
with a shortcut order form for checking your selections . . .*

\$1.25 a year
(\$2.25 foreign)

Department of Commerce Field Offices can give you more information and a sample copy
. . . and enter your subscription for you.

Or, order direct from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office,
Washington 25, D. C.

